

THE
R—L
REGISTER.

WITH
ANNOTATIONS

By ANOTHER HAND.

SIC PATER ÆNEAS.
VIRG.

VOL. VI.

L O N D O N:

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IN the Preface to the Fifth Volume of this Work, I promised another in the course of this Spring; and I fulfil my promise. This manner of introducing my publication to its Readers may, perhaps, be considered as assuming a consequence to which I have no right, either from my own merits, or those of the writings which I have given to the world.—As to myself, I am
out

ADVERTISEMENT.

out of the question; but, if a large, extensive, and continuing sale can give consequence to any work of literature, this, which I have the honour of presenting to the Public, must certainly possess a considerable share of it.

The next Volume will contain a Review of modern Oratory, with a particular and critical examination of those men who have afforded the best examples of it in our days.

I N D E X

TO THE

C H A R A C T E R S.

B —, Sir W.	—	Page 80
B—, Alderman	—	82
B—, Ld.	—	116
C —, E. of	—	53
C—, Ld. F.	—	58
F —, Sir S.	—	93
F—, G. Esq.	—	137
G —, M. of	—	24
G—, R. Esq.	—	139
G—, Ld. G.	—	152
H —, J. Esq.	—	108
I —, Ld.	—	147
J —, Mr. S.	—	43
J—, Sir H. S.	—	81
L —, Sir J.	—	128
	M —,	

I N D E X.

	Page
M——, J. Esq. ————	115
M———, Sir W. ————	131
R——, Sir E. B. ————	75
S——, Sir C. ————	36
S——, Sir G. ————	62
T———, Marquis of ————	I
T——, The Rt. Hon Mr, C.	14
Y——, Hon. Mr. C. ————	69

CHA-

CHARACTERS, &c.

Marquis of T— — —.

THE awe of Death may be qualified by certain circumstances, but can only be quenched in the bosom of hardened villainy or idiot insensibility. The good consider it as a passage to their reward; the wretched, as a refuge from trouble; and the aged, as an expected end to which their infirmities conduct them. But, in each of these situations, the idea of an eternal separation from every thing we see,

VOL. VI.

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from

from all we know and regard, will naturally affect the mind with those solemn impressions, which the best cannot but acknowledge, the most miserable will feel, and to which the decrepitude of age is not insensible.

It may also be observed, that, while there are circumstances which serve to lessen the awe of a last hour, there are situations which greatly increase it. When we see the rich, the great, the young, the virtuous, borne to their graves; when we behold those snatched from beside us, on whom Fortune had poured forth her bounties, to whom Power had communicated its pre-eminence, whose lusty, blooming years seemed

seemed to mock at Fate, and whose growing excellence promised a life of real honour ; our passions, however strong and impetuous, yield to serious reflection : with all their animation and vivacity, they cannot observe such affecting events, without, at least, a temporary forgetfulness or contempt for the common objects of their pursuit. But when wealth, greatness, youth, and virtue, sink together into one grave ; when he who possessed them all finds a sudden and an early tomb ; the mind that possesses the least particle of virtuous sensibility, must turn from every other object, to weep over the sacred dust, and contemplate, in all the piety of sorrow,

so awful an example of human uncertainty.

If any-thing could claim a permanent duration here below, if the solemn sentence denounced, from the beginning of the world, against every thing that has life, were susceptible of mitigation, it would be in favour of consummate virtue ; more especially, when it possessed those means of extending its benefits which wealth, greatness, and the full activity of intellectual strength, afford it. But such an exception is not consistent with the general frailty of the world, and every thing it contains. The strength of the strong, the power of the mighty, the wisdom
of

of the wise, the treasures of the wealthy, the hopes of youth, and the charms of beauty, compose the hourly triumphs of Fate, and hold forth a continual lesson to the children of men, who are to be the future victims of its power.

Every-thing here below bears the mark of instability. Wealth, dignities, and the proudest show of worldly grandeur, all sink into nothing. Crowns are laid in the dust; and sceptres broken. Not only kings, but kingdoms, succeed, as it were, to each other; and the world itself, the vast theatre whereon the various scenes of human vanity have been exhibited, must also pass away. Let Ambition turn its sad contemplation

from the mouldering pyramid, and consider the final dissolution of the earth which groans beneath its weight. Let not the fading charms of short-lived Beauty call forth a sigh, which the future death of Nature, whose vivifying powers seem to promise immortality, more importunately demands. —Alas ! what is a sinking kingdom, when compared with a perishing world !——

“ The cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all that it inherits, shall dissolve,
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind.”

The all-wise Being, who, by the decrees of omniscient providence,
has

has given us a transitory nature, and placed us in a transitory state, has communicated just that degree of permanence to both, which may be necessary to impel and excite our vigilance to pursue the imperfect happiness allotted us here, and to assure our claim to a perfect happiness promised us hereafter. Man is guilty of great presumption when he dares to utter complaints of his original frame and situation. To his own inconsiderate mind and intemperate desires, he is indebted for the greater part of those dissatisfactions which he makes the subject of his frequent lamentations. Is he not formed a perishable being? Is he not fearfully as well as wonderfully made? Does not every thing around him exhibit

a scene expressly contrived for the use of a short-lived creature ? And can he look upon one object, among the myriads that solicit his regard, which has the marks of duration ?—Nature, throughout its vast and various dominion, scatters the universal seeds of decay which itself possesses : and Art, as it beholds its proudest labours, sighs at the shock of accident, the power of time, and the certain menace of future destruction. To those idle speculations, fruitless wishes, and vain pursuits, which take us out of our proper sphere, and pervert our character, we owe much of our feverish miseries.

Man, attentive to the end of his
crea-

creation, and habituated to a continual reflection on the circumstances attached to his nature, would be free from great part of the error, and escape no small share of disquietude; —he would consider life, and the brightest accompaniments of it, as a blessing lent him for his good, and revocable at the will of its author: sensible of the uncertain tenure by which it is held, he would make the best use of the present moment, nor dare to repine if he were certain that the next would be his last. Man is wisely said to be the fabricator of his own misery. It is, in reality, he himself who makes it, or, at least, gives it that form and encrease which fill the world with such continual but ill-founded

founded complaints. The traveller, who wastes his time on the road in idle delays and the pursuit of shadows, must blame himself, if he does not attain the end of his journey.

Such a variety of matter presents itself to me on a subject which has been so often and so much better considered before, that, to prevent repetition as well as perplexity, I shall conclude with an observation suggested by the wisest of men, and confirmed by the experience of my own life, That the whole scene of human glory, in whatever form it may appear, is all Vanity, and, what is worse, Vexation of Spirit; and that the only solid blessing we possess is the little good, and God knows

knows how little it is, that we can do to one another.

These thoughts spontaneously arose from the sudden, unexpected, and melancholy end of the amiable young nobleman, whose illustrious name is at the beginning of them. He was an honour to his rank, his country, and his nature, and promised a continuance of the bright career he had begun. Possessed of the most endearing and noble qualities, more elevated by the exalted virtues of his mind than by the honours of his birth, the hopes of his country were fixed upon him, and mankind looked forward with pleasure to the noble use he would have made of the wealth and power that

that must have descended to him, had it pleased the Arbiter of life to have extended his to a longer date. Human frailty may surely be permitted to lament such a loss ; and, in a degenerate age like our own, when examples of virtue are so rare among our rich and noble youth, Piety itself may sigh over his tomb, without offending against that resignation which man owes to every dispensation of his Maker *.

* This excellent young nobleman lost his life by a fall from his horse in the eagerness of a fox-chace. As the ordinary efforts of language would fail in doing justice to his character, I shall content myself with observing, that his death has been justly considered as a national loss. I do not pretend to say that it was a misfortune to him, but it was certainly a great one to those who knew, and of course loved and honoured him

him, that his station was so high, and his life of so much importance, as to those circumstances they must attribute the loss of it. The fall his Lordship received was so violent as to occasion a very severe fracture of the scull, which an immediate operation would have preserved from any fatal consequences. A surgeon of the neighbourhood, who happened to be on the spot, declared the danger of its delay, and offered to perform it; but it was thought improper to trust a provincial practitioner in a matter of such great consequence: the utmost expedition was used to fetch Messrs. Hawkins and Middleton from London; but they only arrived to confirm the opinion which had already been rejected, and to announce the melancholy truth, that their assistance was several hours too late.——The affection of the noble widow, and the affecting consequences of it, have been the subject of universal pity and admiration. In a future part of this work, there is a page reserved for the celebration of her exemplary fidelity.

The

The Right Hon. Mr. C— T— —*.

IT seems ordered by the wisdom of Providence, that there should be a certain balance in the powers and passions of men, that they, whom it has favoured with an higher degree of intellectual strength than is generally communicated to the children of men, might not be able to make slaves of their fellow-creatures. This Right Honourable Gentleman is a prodigy of talents, and possesses those irresistible charms

* Since these observations were made, the subject of them departed this life, accompanied with the sincere regrets of the nation, who are mortified with the barren prospect of great abilities in the rising nobility and men of fortune.

of

of private conversation as well as the magic of public eloquence, which would draw the world after him, if the unsteadiness of his temper, and the flexibility of his opinions, did not act as antidotes against the powers of his understanding and the exertion of his abilities.

Possessing, as he does, many of the qualities which form the statesman, he may be of very important utility to Government, but will never, I fear, acquire the character of a great minister. His failings,---for he possesses many,---are such as will ever prevent him from securing that public good opinion which is the ground-work and key-stone of ministerial greatness. His talents are
acknow-

acknowledged as universally as they are admired. In the article of intellectual gifts, the first men of this kingdom, where Heaven has not been sparing of mental ability, retire from the contest, and yield the superiority to him. But though all regard him with wonder, it is not unmingled with pity ; and, while all parties are ready to embrace him, none will honour him with their confidence. They wish to receive his support, they are elated with the eclat of his name, but they will not submit to him as a leader, lest, in the hour of danger, of caprice, or of temptation, he might be induced to desert them. Thus is he under the mortifying and disgraceful necessity of acting a subordinate

dinate part in the theatre of politics, because he cannot be trusted with the conduct of the piece ; and is thus obliged to follow men who are his inferiors in every thing, but the simple virtues of zeal, steadiness, and integrity.

A levity of character, in the language of the world, is an happy one, as it is calculated to beguile the wearisome hours of life, and make them pass hastily away ; but it is totally destitute of that sensibility which makes us interested in our own actions as well as those of others, and is the parent of that zeal which can alone bear the mind, in spite of difficulties and opposition, to the attainment of

great and important objects. This levity of mind pervades every part of Mr. T—'s life. He does not appear to feel any great anxiety but for the incense of the moment. To enjoy a transient gleam of vanity, friends, connections, principles, and even the solid honours of future fame, are sacrificed without the forms of regret. With such an unhappy disposition, the ardor of zeal with which he sometimes enters into the conduct of plans and the support of measures, must naturally be expected to evaporate in doubt and inconsistency. When he delivers his sentiments in Parliament, his audience are often incapable of divining his intentions; they are frequently at a loss to determine
which

which side he means to embrace; and, perhaps, he may himself be determined, by circumstances which arise during the course of his own speech, how he shall conclude it. He fixes attention by the ingenuity of his debate, the power of his language, the brilliance of his thoughts, and the variety of his matter; but he often keeps the decisive opinion in a kind of equal balance, till, tired with the alternate applause of each expecting party, he arrives at the concluding period. His most serious arguments, therefore, often fail of their effect; for, whatever may be their force, the doubts of his hearers, who know his capacity to make the worse appear the better reason, continually accompany them,

and conviction itself, when it flows from his persuasions, becomes suspected in the bosom even of those who receive it *. Thus this extraordinary

* This observation was fully illustrated in a very celebrated speech of this gentleman at the time when he was informed of his father being at the point of death; a circumstance to which he repeatedly alluded, in the course of his debate, in somewhat like the following words: "I have the feelings of nature, and at this moment a venerable parent is at the last sad scene of life;---at this moment my affections urge me to pay my last sad duties to him, to close his eyes, and receive the patriarchal blessing: but my country calls me here, and I obey her call. I have the feelings of nature, but those of a citizen have a superior claim; they will absorb even those of a son: the latter may wring his heart, but the former must be obeyed; and thus I manifest my obedience to them." This oratorical flight, or, as it has been wittily called,

ordinary man is more than half lost to society by a fondness for empty sounds, and preferring the *bear-bims* of the day to the solid honours of lasting celebrity*.

IF

called, this parliamentary *rondéau*, however it might be admired by his senatorial audience, did not come home to the bosoms of those who knew the speaker, and the terms upon which he and his father had long lived. The pathetic apostrophe, however, had its effect upon the gallery, for which perhaps it was originally designed, and drew forth tears from the eyes, and many a white handkerchief from the pockets, of ladies who were assembled there.

* Among other of the graver virtues which were not possessed by this gentleman, was a firm, manly courage. It is also well known that the great object of his political dread, though he had sometimes ventured to oppose him, was Mr. Pitt, who was still in the House of Commons at the period under

If, however, the advances of more
mature life should give a new form
and

der consideration. That great Commoner was afflicted with a very severe fit of the gout, at a time when some propositions were to be made in Parliament unfavourable to the conduct of the German war, which he had adopted. It was universally supposed that he was incapable of attending the debates of that day, in which Mr. T—— took an active, and, to all appearance, a decisive part against continental engagements; but, as he was speaking with uncommon eloquence and ability, Mr. P—— was brought into the house, covered with flannels, and in a state of much corporal affliction and weakness. Mr. T—— continued his speech for some time according to the tenor in which he had begun it; when, observing that he had used every argument which, in his opinion, could be suggested against the measures which were the subject of that day's consideration, he veered suddenly to the opposite quarter, entreated the attention of the House to what might be urged:

and colour to his dispositions; if an ambition for real greatness should arise and dissipate the meteors of fancy and caprice which have hitherto played around and lessened his character; we may yet behold, in this wonderful man, the greatest minister that has ever directed the machine of the British empire *.

M— —

urged on the other side of the question, and, with an ingenuity and readiness of reasoning unparalleled, he overturned every argument he had just employed; when he sat down, satisfied that he had given a specimen of his abilities, whose splendor would obscure the dishonourable use he had made of them, and save him from the lash of that commanding orator, whose words would have made him tremble, if he had not fled to this extraordinary refuge for protection.

* Whether Mr. T— —, if he had lived, would have fulfilled this prophecy, must re-

C 4

main

M— — of G— —.

COURAGE and Generosity are noble and concomitant Virtues, but they do not alone form a great character :

main a matter for conjecture ; but his death was, at all events, a great loss to his country. He had paid a most assiduous attention to the history of our colonies, and had made himself master of that intricate but most important subject. It was he who suggested the necessity of a third Secretary of State for the colony department ; and I have been credibly informed that it was an ardent wish of his heart to have had that post created in his time, and to have been himself the first who should be honoured with its appointment. This measure, as is well known, took place some years after his death, but under circumstances which, tho' he was the cause of them, he could not foresee. He was, unfortunately, the re-producer of the fatal scheme of taxing America, that
has,

rafter : Gravity, Firmness, and Judgment, must aid the more splendid
quali-

has involved this country in the present most expensive and unnatural war, and which, perhaps, if his life had been spared, he would have found the means to prevent. As this gentleman was a character of no common figure in the eye of mankind, and as he is no more, I shall venture to borrow the remarkable description of him which the greatest orator of this day gave in the House of Commons. It is hardly to be paralleled in any language for strength, delicacy, and truth ; and though, in my editorial capacity, I may be acting imprudently, as my author must greatly sink in the comparison, I shall make no apology for inserting it, and I trust the reader will think I want none.

—— Speaking of *Charles Townshend*, Mr. *Burke* proceeds,—“ In truth he was the
“ delight and ornament of this House, and
“ the charm of every private society which
“ he honoured with his presence. Perhaps
“ there never arose in this, nor any other
“ country, a man of a more pointed and
“ finished

qualities to give a perfection to human nature that few attain, and which

“ finished wit, and, where his passions were
 “ not concerned, of a more refined, exquisite, and penetrating judgment. If he
 “ had not so great a share, as some have
 “ had who flourished formerly, of knowledge long treasured up, he knew, better
 “ by far than any man I ever was acquainted with, how to bring together, within a
 “ short time, all that was necessary to establish, to illustrate, and to decorate that
 “ side of the question he supported. He
 “ stated his matter skilfully and powerfully.
 “ He particularly excelled in a most luminous explanation and display of his subject.
 “ His style of argument was neither trite nor vulgar, nor subtle and abstruse. He hit the
 “ House just between wind and water; and,
 “ not being troubled with too anxious a zeal
 “ for any matter in question, he was never
 “ more tedious or more earnest, than the preconceived opinions and present temper
 “ of his hearers required, to whom he was
 “ always in perfect unison. He conformed
 “ exactly

which leaves this popular nobleman far behind. He possessed those dispositions

“ exactly to the temper of the House ; and
 “ he seemed to guide, because he was always sure to follow it.”

“ There are many young members, such
 “ of late has been the rapid succession of
 “ public men, who never saw that prodigy
 “ *Charles Townshend*, nor, of course, know
 “ what a ferment he was able to excite in
 “ every thing by the violent ebullition of
 “ his mixed virtues and failings ; for fail-
 “ ings he undoubtedly had : many of us
 “ remember them. But he had no failings
 “ which were not owing to a noble cause ;
 “ to an ardent, generous, perhaps an im-
 “ moderate passion for fame ; a passion
 “ which is the instinct of all great souls.
 “ He worshipped that goddess wheresoever
 “ she appeared, but he paid his particular
 “ devotions to her in her favourite habita-
 “ tion, in her chosen temple, the House of
 “ Commons. He was truly the Child of
 “ the House. He never did, thought, or
 “ said, any thing but with a view to you.
 “ He

positions which never fail to ensure public esteem, but seldom command respect.

“ He every day adapted himself to your disposition, and adjusted himself before it as at a looking-glass.

“ He had observed, indeed it could not escape him, that several persons, infinitely his inferiors in all respects, had formerly rendered themselves considerable in this House by one method alone. They were a race of men, who, when they rose in their place, no man living could divine, from any known adherence to parties, to opinions, or to principles,---from any order or system in their politics, or from any sequel or connection in their ideas, what part they were going to take in any debate. It is astonishing how much this uncertainty, especially at critical times, called the attention of all parties on such men:---all eyes were fixed on them, all ears open to hear them; each party gaped and looked alternately for their vote, almost to the end of their speeches. While the house hung in the
“ uncer-

respect. The crowd is used to favour him with its applause ; but there is a certain air of familiarity in bestowing it, that takes off all appearance of veneration.

The open countenance and generous

“ uncertainty, now the *bear-hims* rose from
 “ this side, now they re-bellowed from the
 “ other ; and that party, to whom they
 “ fell at length from their tremulous and
 “ dancing balance, always received them
 “ in a tempest of applause.”

“ The fortune of such men was a temptation too great to be resisted by one, to whom a single whiff of incense withheld gave much greater pain than he received delight in the clouds of it which daily rose about him from the prodigal superstition of innumerable admirers. He was a candidate for contradictory honours, and his great aim was to make those agree in admiration of him who never agreed in any-thing else.”

rous look of L— G— — are sufficient to awaken the most favourable prepossessions; and they are true pictures of his mind: Hypocrisy can not be numbered among his failings; but a near approach discovers that carelessness and inattention to every thing beyond the present hour, which renders him the continual dupe of the bad people who surround him.

A man, whose temper is particularly disposed to convivial mirth and jovial society, cannot make up his party with men of worth and understanding; neither their reason nor constitutions will admit of engagements which proceed in riot and end in excess. He must therefore

fore have recourse to such as are attached to similar pleasures, and, from some motive or other, into which he does not examine, will go any lengths to contribute to his amusement or afford him satisfaction. Such people lead him, as often as possible, to that careless, unconscious state, when his honour would be readily pledged to promises, which, though made without thought, and in the moment of intoxication, are not to be retracted on the return of soberness and reflection.

Avarice is such a detestable vice, that any quality of the mind, however weak or disgraceful, which is in opposition to it, assumes an amiable

able appearance. While the covetous man is followed by the execrations of his fellow-creatures, the spendthrift, who ruins himself, and reduces his family to beggary by a generous extravagance, if no flagrant act of baseness appears, is generally considered with a respectful commiseration. It is a matter of great difficulty to preserve a true medium between the impulse of good nature and the suggestions of self-love ; but, without attaining, in a certain degree, the happy power of regulating the effusions of benevolence as well as the caution of self-interest, a good heart must be continually baffled in its designs, and the power of blessing be most grievously perverted.

Popular

Popular characters frequently sanctify a conduct which would be universally condemned in the practice of ordinary individuals. The man who throws money by handfuls to a mob, and, for every petitioner, puts his hand mechanically to his pocket, while there is a guinea left, without a single enquiry concerning the object of his bounty, will find numerous admirers; but, whatever his situation in life may be, he will convey no very favourable impressions of his understanding to a reflecting observer. If, however, it should be known that his private affairs were disarranged, that he was involved in debt, and that the honest creditor comes in vain to his door for a just demand,

---amidst all his idle generosity, something more than Folly may justly be imputed to his inconsiderate conduct.

I fear this nobleman's character will answer, in some degree, to this description. He seems to act always from the careless impulse of the moment, without thought for the future. He is a brave, generous soldier, but by no means an eminent commander in chief. In his political career he is changeful and indecisive;—wishes to take a right part, but does not pursue the means to discern it, or, when discerned, wants a sufficient firmness of principle to follow his conviction.—He certainly has many attractive qualities;

qualities ; - even his failings are of that amiable nature as to be sometimes mistaken for virtues. It is impossible not to love him, but, I fear, there is too little reason to revere him.—After all, he has no pretensions to the character of a Great Man *.

Sir

* There is a tincture communicated to these observations which I did not expect, though I cannot accuse the writer of them of injustice. It never appeared to me that Lord Granby was a Great Man. When he was acting the part of a jovial landlord, at an hunting seat in the country, he seemed to be in a sphere more congenial to his character than when placed at the head of an army. Prince *Ferdinand*, it is true, was of a different opinion; but he had his reasons, and the people of England have paid for them. It is with concern I dissent from the merit generally given to this nobleman; but I never could discover in him more than a frolic generosity,

Sir C— S— —.

THERE is no class or character of men who more highly deserve the applause and rewards of

which had no rational foundation, proceeded in sudden, intemperate flashes, and never exerted itself in a solid course of doing good. An easy, unsteady temper occasioned his being continually at the mercy of the hungry sycophants who fed upon his purse and his honour. His personal courage is willingly acknowledged: he was as brave as his sword; but he did not possess a degree of military knowledge superior to the command of a regiment. — — — The opportunity which here presents itself of doing justice to his son, the present Duke of Rutland, shall not escape me, and it is with pleasure that I record it. — The very first act of power his Grace performed on his succession to the estates of his family, was to order a large proportion of the revenues to be applied yearly

of this country, than those who have extended its naval glory. It is to the sailor that Great Britain is indebted for the preservation and enlargement of its dominions, and the permanent fruits of war and victory. Defended by her floating castles, she never loses the symbols, or even the realities, of peace. Her husbandmen till their ground, fearless of any inroads from hostile neighbours: her citizens are not alarmed lest

yearly towards the payment of his father's debts, and to be continued, without interruption, till the whole are fully discharged. Such an act of generous justice deserves the applause of mankind. But, alas! such virtuous deeds as this do not, very often, reach beyond those who immediately feel the benefits of them; while a few public flights of idle extravagance shall establish a reputation of generosity for ever.

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their

their domestic property should become the prey of violence and rapine ; nor are her cities begirt with the miserable parade of ramparts and circumvallations, which, in continental nations, cloath even peace with the habiliments of war. Happy are her people, beyond the rest of the inhabitants of the earth !

But, if we wave, for a moment, the primary importance of the naval character to the State, and govern our sentiments by the proportion of rewards to the dangers and labours of service, the duty of remuneration to the sailor will appear, from every consideration, to be a most natural and unavoidable obligation. This principle animated the nation to
create

erect the superb asylum of Greenwich, for the reception of its naval defenders, when the rage of war had unfitted them for future service, or enfeebling age conducts them to repose.

The toils of the camp appear as pastimes, when compared with a seaman's life. Every convenience and comfort that the State can command, attends the soldier's march: his sufferings are common, easily borne, and soon relieved. It is only in the extremities of a siege, which rarely happen, that he experiences the horrors and calamity of war. Far different is the sailor's warfare: the very elements are his foes, and he oftentimes receives more injury from them than

from those of his country. He has not to contend only with a faithless ocean, replete with dangers, but with the change of climates, with the trying succession of burning suns and freezing skies. He is borne away from his friends and native land, confined to the ship in which he sails, and deprived of every communication that might cheer his heart in the dismal moments of his distress, and at the extremities of the globe. The hour of combat approaches him with redoubled danger; and it sometimes proves his lamentable fate to fly from the quick approaches of consuming fire, and find a less horrid tomb in the devouring wave.

The first years of the infant seaman's

man's life are fatigue and hardship : removed from a parent's tender care, and all the comforts of a protecting home, it is his lot to enter upon a scene where the severe discipline of rigorous instruction prepares him to bear with resolution the future toils of his profession. The naval officer is not the mushroom of a day :— he cannot purchase from rank to rank, but must win his way to promotion by a long progress of severe duty.

Whoever is acquainted with the life of this great and gallant commander, whose name suggested these reflections, will possess, in his mind, a perfect picture of a sailor's progress to reputation and power. He
has

has well won the honours which adorn him, and his name will be inscribed in the annals of his country, among those who have enlarged her dominion and brightened her glory *.

Mr.

* The R — — writer, in the course of his observations, seems hitherto to have reserved his encomiums for his military officers; and it gives me no small pleasure to find that there was a moment, when, forgetting his favourite raree-shows of Blackheath and Wimbledon Common, he had a becoming sense of the superior consideration due to his naval commanders. The character of Admiral S — — was a natural source of those observations which have arisen in the consideration of it; and a reference being made to that excellent officer's life, as a true representation of a seaman's duty, it becomes me to instruct the reader, as well as I am able, in the principal circumstances of it.

Mr. S — — entered early into the Royal Navy, and was so distinguished by that judge
of

Mr. S— J— —.

THERE are a certain set of men whom the most uncourtly politicians have thought necessary to live about

of naval merit, the late Lord Anson, as to be appointed, on his recommendation, first Lieutenant of his own ship, the Centurion, when he sailed on the celebrated expedition to the South Seas, in 1740. In February, 1741, during their stay at Port St. Julian, on the coast of Patagonia, which was occasioned by an accident that happened to the Tryal's main-mast, Mr. S— — was promoted, by the Commodore, to the command of that sloop, in the room of Captain Cheap, removed to the Wager. In his passage round Cape Horn, out of his complement of eighty men, he buried twenty; and, arriving at the Island of Juan Fernandes, all its bays and creeks were, by Mr. Anson's orders, more particularly examined by Captain S— —, than they had hitherto been. The Spaniards

about a court ; persons of a character too high to be entirely neglected,
but

Spaniards, taken soon after in a prize by the Centurion, were astonished at seeing the Tryal Sloop at anchor, and that, after all their fatigues, the crew could have so soon refitted such a vessel on the spot ; nor would they believe that such a bauble could pass round Cape Horn, when the best ships were frequently obliged to put back. On Sept. 18, 1741, Captain S— —, being dispatched on a cruize off Valparaiso, took a large merchantman of 600 tons, bound to that port from Callao : but, to balance this success, the Tryal soon after sprung both her masts, and besides was so leaky, that, on joining the Commodore, he found it necessary to take out her people and destroy her, and, in her stead, appointed her prize to be a frigate in his Majesty's service, mounting 20 guns, manning her with the Tryal's crew, and renewing the commissions of Captain S— — and the other officers. No sooner was he possessed of his new frigate, called the Tryal's Prize, than he was dispatched
ou

but not of sufficient importance to
be very greatly regarded ; whose as-
sistance

on a cruize off the high land of Valparaiso, in company with the Centurion's prize, where, however, they had no success ; so proceeding down the coast to the rendezvous of Masca, they joined the Commodore on the 2d of November. From that time till April following, Captain S— — kept company with the Commodore ; but, at length, the whole numbers on board the squadron not amounting to the complement of a fourth rate man of war, it was agreed to destroy the Tryal's and other prizes, and to reinforce the Gloucester with the best part of the crews ; and accordingly, on the 27th of April, they were towed ashore, and scuttled in the harbour of Chequetan.

Soon after the Centurion's arrival at Macao, in China, in November, 1742, Captain S— — took his passage for England, on board a Swedish ship, charged with dispatches from the Commodore, and arrived in the Downs in May, 1743. By this circumstance he lost the great emoluments that
attended

sistance may not be much wanted as friends, but who are to be in some degree

attended the capture of the Manilla Galleon, in the month of June following. In March, 1745, he was appointed to the command of the Sandwich, of 90 guns, but had no opportunity of distinguishing himself till October 14, 1747, when, being commander of the Yarmouth, of 64 guns, in the squadron of Admiral Hawke, he had a great share in the victory of that day, taking the Neptune and Monarque, both of 74 guns; and, though he had 22 men killed and 70 wounded, he gallantly proposed to the Captains Saumarez and Rodney, to pursue the two ships that escaped, which they in consequence overtook, engaged, and would have taken, if the death of Saumarez had not occasioned his ship to haul her wind, and do no more service. In May, 1752, Mr. S— — sailed as Commodore, in the Penzance of 40 guns, to protect the Newfoundland fishery, with instructions also to look for a supposed island in lat. 49, 40. long. 24, 30. from the Lizard; in which attempt he failed of success,

degree feared, as being qualified to be troublesome enemies. These men, though

as Commodore Rodney had done before. In April, 1754, he was appointed Treasurer of Greenwich Hospital, an office which on his further promotion he resigned; and, in the Parliament that met in the month of May in the same year, he was returned for Heydon, in Yorkshire, by the interest of his great and ever faithful friend Lord Anson. In March, 1755, a war being apprehended, Mr. S— was appointed to the command of the Prince, a new ship of 90 guns; and, in June, he treated with great magnificence on board the nobility who came to see the firings of the fleet on the anniversary of the King's accession. In June, 1756, on advice being received of the misconduct of Admiral Byng off Minorca, a large proportion of flag officers was made on purpose to include Mr. S—, and he was immediately sent to the Mediterranean, as Rear Admiral of the Blue, with Sir Edward Hawke, who returning to England in January, 1757, the sole command devolved on him. In February, 1759, he

though not capable of doing much,
are capable of doing something ; and
are

he was appointed Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and, on the 17th of the same month, sailed from Spithead, on board the Neptune, of 90 guns, with General Wolfe, as chief naval officer on the expedition against Quebec, the success of which is so well known, and conferred so much honour on both the commanders. Returning from that glorious conquest with General Townshend, he was informed, in the Chops of the Channel, that the Brest fleet was sailed, on which the Admiral formed the gallant resolution of going to join Sir Edward Hawke, though without orders ; but that affair was decided before his arrival. His reception in England was such as he deserved : he was immediately made Lieutenant-General of Marines, and received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. On the 21st of May, 1760, he sailed from St. Helen's, in the Neptune, to take the command of the fleet in the Mediterranean ; and, on the 26th of the same month, 1761, he was installed a Knight of the

are, by many degrees, superior to that
mechanical cohort of ministerial soldiery,

the Bath. In October, 1762, Sir C—S—
was advanced to the rank of Vice-Admiral
of the White; and in September, 1766, having
some time possessed a seat at the Admiralty
Board, he was sworn of the Privy Council,
and appointed First Lord of the Admiralty;
which post he held but a short time, under
the motley and transient Administration of
that day. In October, 1770, he was promoted
to be Admiral of the Blue, and was chosen
a fourth time for the Borough of Heydon,
having also for some time represented the
town of Plymouth.——

Such are the principal circumstances of the
active, laborious, and honourable life of
this brave and experienced commander. He
died of the gout in his stomach, at his house
in Spring Gardens, December the 7th, 1775;
and, to compleat the public testimony of his
merit, within five hours after his death, two
of the most distinguished characters for virtue
and eloquence in the House of Commons,
receiving the melancholy account of

diery, who, being no more than the figures of a chess-board, are moved about at will, and on whom the conduct of the game is not to be charged.

Since such men are necessary,---and I wish, from my heart, that they were the only evils which are necessary to Government,---it is prudent to select those whose understandings elevate them above the rank of time-serving sycophants; and who, though they may be considered, by rigid politicians, as

his death in attendance upon their duty there, took the most immediate opportunity to pay the last tribute due to his great character, by a public eulogium of it, which awakened the sensibility and received the applause of every hearer.— His remains were privately interred in Westminster Abbey, near the monument of General Wolfe, his brother of the war,

profti-

prostituted characters, are not without some degree of reputation, from the demeanour and occupations of their private life.

Whatever motives may have induced such men to enter into the service of Government, or whatever principles may have directed them in their political career, I have found many of them capable of real gratitude and sincere attachment. Length of connection, attended with favour, will have small effect on minds not of the softest mould, where habit may, perhaps, operate more powerfully than sentiment; but in men of liberal education, and an enlarged way of thinking, it will never fail to produce the sincerity of respect

and affection.—I believe this gentleman to be very firmly attached to me and my interests. He has been content to take a subordinate office in Government ; and it is with pleasure that I rank him among the number of my friends*.

E—

* Mr. J——, I believe, never gave a vote against Government ; and is supposed to know very well what is to be got from a Minister. He is a singular man, of singular talents : he wrote an Essay on the Origin of Evil, which is one kind of performance ; he has since published an Essay on the internal Evidence of the Christian Religion, which is another kind of performance ; and he is supposed to be the author of several little productions, in prose and verse, which are neither one nor the other. He is a Lord of Trade ; and it ought to be told for his honour, that, when the destruction of that Board was in agitation, in the House of Commons, and while his unblushing brethren
were

E— of C—.

THIS noble Lord also is, and has ever been, an able and steady supporter of the measures of Government. My father thought him worthy of his patronage, and I have found him truly deserving of mine. His talents are useful to his country, and possess the happy, enviable power of combining the duties of the Statesman with the pastimes of the Scholar, without neglecting the one or disgracing the other.

were labouring to support its golden finances, he was the only one among them who had sufficient virtue to leave the House before the division.

E 3

It

It is a great misfortune attendant upon those who mingle much in the busy concerns of life,---and it must be added, in a particular degree, when their duties call them to the circle of courts,---that they see so much of the folly, the vices, and baseness of mankind, as to receive those impressions of the world which beget a suspicion of virtue itself, and render the mind unsusceptible of those amiable, delicate, and delightful feelings which form its best earthly happiness.

The statesman, whose objects are necessarily great, must not suffer his heart to be interested in little matters. He must be frequently contented to sacrifice the misery of the
few

few to the happiness of the many. It sometimes becomes his office to direct the force of war, as well as to sharpen the sword of justice ;--to turn his back upon acknowledged friendship, and to load the stranger, perhaps an enemy, with favours. He must be satisfied to wear an occasional vizard upon his countenance, and to give his words a colour which does not always suit with the heart. In short, it is absolutely necessary for him to acquire that kind of insensibility which is essential to the Professors of the Chirurgical Art ;—he must learn to be unmoved by the sufferings of mankind, in order to be the better qualified to relieve them. Happy therefore is the Statesman, who, in the rare snatches of tranquillity,

can beckon, from the secret cells of his understanding, those feelings which the important avocations of his public character lull asleep and force into inaction. When they beam forth in the mild splendor of private virtue, they afford a bright though transient sun-shine to his breast ; and compensate, in his short repose from public toil, the hard, rigid, and inflexible demeanour which is destined to accompany it. Happy the man who can forget the pomp and pride of greatness, and cast off the cold habits of state and ceremony, to enjoy the beauties of nature, the charms of science, and the comforts of domestic life !

This noble Lord may be said, in
no

no small degree, to possess this singular privilege: he is capable of entering, with knowledge, into subjects of commerce, of displaying the politician and instructing a Senate; while he is equally well qualified to charm society with classic wit, and to weave a fragrant offering for the shrine of the Muses*.

L—

* When Mr. N— — first came from Ireland, he had little appearance of those graces of manner or mind which are qualifications for the favour of a Court; and that he should ever have attained it was, in the late Lord Chesterfield's opinion, one of the prodigies of the present times. Nevertheless, he was formed for the world, and soon appeared fit for the part he has since acted in it. His good fortune introduced him to the late Prince of Wales, who found him suited to his purpose, and gave him an earnest of that protection which he has since received. He possesses
a good

L— F— — — C— —.

THE younger branches of superior nobility have a natural claim to the favour and protection of the crown.
 Theirs

a good understanding, is a pleasant companion, and may be ranked among the mob of Gentlemen who write with ease. But it is to his knowledge of the human heart, and the artful employment of it, that he is principally indebted for the high rank and station he has long held, and continues still to hold. He is an useful Member of Parliament, and speaks with a pleasantry which frequently restores the House to good humour. He well knows the advantage resulting from a constant attendance upon Levees and Drawing-Rooms; and, I believe, does not repent, that, in the course of several Parliaments, he has scarce ever voted against a Ministerial question. His marriage with the Dowager Lady B— — —, and the ridiculous circumstances

Theirs is an hard lot :---born to high rank, but, in general, to small fortunes, they are debarred, by their birth, from every profession but such as the army, navy, and, of late years, the church, afford them, which, being oftentimes occupied, as it were, by other branches of their family, do not always offer to them the means of support or reputation. The State

stances which succeeded, are well known. He has, however, adopted one of the daughters which followed that marriage, settled his great fortune upon her, married her to a Peer of wealth and character, but insisted upon her estrangement from her mother and younger sister, whom, though amiable and accomplished, he entirely disclaims ; while the good Countess his wife, who must certainly be supposed to know the truth, openly asserts, *That she is as much his child as her elder sister.*

alone

alone can furnish them with occupations equal to their character ; and, when they discover talents or activity equal to public business, it is the duty of the State to employ them in preference to others, who may win their way to Fortune by a thousand avenues, from which men of a certain rank are excluded.

The younger sons of the inferior nobility have entered, without disgrace, into the engagements of Commerce ; and some of them have not only enriched themselves in it, but eclipsed in wealth, and even, I fear, in real consequence, the titled head of their family. But there is a certain point at which the etiquette of Peerage interferes, and does not
suffer

suffer the contaminations of commercial pursuits ; nay, which denies even the profession of the Law to be honourable. I do not find, however, that this jealous spirit is known to startle at matrimonial connections with wealthy citizens ; and it has sometimes happened, that riches, gained by the industry of the merchant, has preserved the fading lustre even of the ducal coronet *.

This

* This noble Lord, when the son of General C—, seriously pursued the profession of the law, in which he was a rising character ; but, on his father's succession to the Dukedom of A—, the forms of nobility obliged him to resign a profession, which promised him both profit and honour, for the paltry recompence of a trifling pension. It was some time before he was appointed to the profitable post of Lord Register, of Scotland.

This nobleman has supported a very respectable name through life, and it was with real pleasure that I afforded him the means of duly supporting his rank in it.

Sir G— S— —.

IT is a certain truth, and verified by daily experience, that every virtue, when practised in the extreme, degenerates into certain vice. Thus courage may grow into rashness, caution into fear, generosity into profusion, œconomy into ava-

Scotland. He is an amiable, well-instructed man, and a respectable Member of the House of Commons.

rice,

rice, religious zeal into bigotry, &c. But, among human failings, there seems to be no excessive quality of the mind, by which a great character may be so degraded, as that of Obstinacy : and it so happens, that almost the whole line of noble and masculine virtues, constancy, gravity, magnanimity, fortitude, and fidelity, are unfortunately but closely allied to this stubborn error. An inflexible, contumacious spirit has done more mischief than almost any other human failing in the walks of private life ; and, if we examine the records of history, it will be found to have been a most extensive source of evil, when it has infected States and legislative bodies of men.

In

In the education of youth, the care of the instructor cannot be too minute in guarding the infant mind against a vice which discolours every amiable quality, and will, more or less, intrude upon every comfort of life. It strikes at the root of all social virtue, which consists in a communication of sentiments, opinions, and good offices : for what person will enter into such a traffic with a man who will hear no sentiments, and adopt no opinions, but his own ? Such an one is excluded from numberless pleasing opportunities of doing good : for who will consult or make applications to a man whose counsels must arise from an instantaneous, unchangeable impression ; and which, being hasty, will, in all proba-

probability be erroneous. Importance of character it will not be possible for him to acquire, as reputation and the good opinion of mankind are to be obtained by a vigilant attention to circumstances, by occasional diffidence, and the exercise of reflection and judgment ; a progress too undecisive in its motions for the self-conceit of an obstinate mind. Even the common pleasures of society will be denied him ; for a stubborn temper engenders the love of dispute and the spirit of contradiction, the most offensive qualities in every branch of social intercourse. He who is governed by them, must be considered as having his hand raised against every man ; and the natural consequence

of such a situation will be, that every man's hand will be raised against him. Whatever virtues he may possess will be rendered not only unamiable, but ineffectual, by such offensive associates : his company will be avoided, and his presence will damp the freedom of every conversation if he mingles in it ; as they who know him will rather sacrifice the few hours they may be obliged to pass with him, to dullness, insipidity, and silence, than rouse them into activity by vain harangue and unyielding disputation.

It is a principal argument in favour of that part of modern education which consists in foreign travel, that it roots up prejudices, and stops the growth of habitual prepossessions.

essions. The young mind, continually kept in motion by a variety of new objects that affect and amuse it, feels such of its favourite impressions, as have not a right foundation, lose their hold, while there is not a sufficient length of idle interval for any successive ones to be implanted in it. Thus it proceeds in acquiring ideas and information, till judgment is mature, and has leisure, by taking a review of what is past, to form those just principles of thought and action, which, being founded in truth, may be continually obeyed without the imputation of a stubborn mind *.

* It may have been owing to the narrow extent of his observation, that one of the principal monarchs in Europe is afflicted with this fatal disposition.

Fortitude and Inflexibility are noble virtues ; and it is the exercise of them with thought and reflection, in spite of superior judgment, and in opposition to the powers of conviction, which constitutes the offensive quality that has been the subject of these cursory observations. I hate and detest it ; and, if it were possible, my abhorrence of it would be encreased from a belief, that it has, in some degree, been the cause that my Government has been troubled by a resolute, uniform, and continual opposition from one of the most popular characters in my dominions *.

Hon.

* The good sense of the foregoing opinions may be generally acknowledged ; but
I am

Hon. Mr. C— Y—.

THE fate of this great man is another example of human vanity, in rivetting our hearts to

I am not without my suspicions, that the writer himself must be subject to the ungracious habit he so justly condemns, or he could not have been guilty of such a glaring misapplication of it. Sir G— S—'s general character is so totally undeserving of such a charge, that I should oppose it in very strong terms, if I could believe, for a moment, that it glanced a line beyond his political conduct. If the accusation is considered in the latter view, some allowances may be made for the observer's opinion: it is impossible but he must feel some degree of mortification, when he reflects that one of the most wealthy, independent, and best-informed of his subjects should think it a duty to condemn and oppose, in the most

to the frail objects of transitory life.
 He was in the road to greatness,
 nor

solemn manner, the conduct of those men whom his Majesty has appointed to the Administration of his kingdoms. This honourable Gentleman's private life is well known, and wants no applause of mine : it is that of a good citizen and a good man. His political career has been an uniform and temperate opposition to the measures of men whom he does not consider as able pilots of the State, or friends to the constitution of his country. He is above temptation, and the Minister knows it and respects him. Among his other virtues, he possesses candour in a great degree ; his parliamentary conduct has ever the appearance of an honest man and unbiassed senator : no personal rancour mingles in his debates ; no inflammatory harangues have proceeded from his lips : no harrassing motions or perplexing propositions, with a mere view to distress Government, have been encouraged by him. Whatever he has suggested appears to have been founded in wisdom ; and it is my firm opinion,

nor did an impediment seem to be
in his way. Fortune smiled upon
him,

opinion, that, having ever acted from a sense of duty, there is no moment which he so ardently desires to behold as that when an able and patriot Minister shall direct the State. He would be the first to give such an one his warmest wishes; and, having every-thing to expect from the talents and integrity of such a Statesman, he himself would gladly seek that privacy for which he has so long languished, there nurse the remains of a constitution impaired in the service of his country, and gild his retirement with the mild splendor of private virtue.—To do justice to this worthy and respectable man, though I fear my author will sink on the comparison, I shall add the character given of him in Mr. Burke's celebrated speech to the Electors of Bristol:—
“ He is,” says that great orator, “ a true genius; with an understanding vigorous and
“ acute, refined and distinguishing even to
“ excess; and illuminated with a most un-
“ bounded, peculiar, and original cast of
F 4 “ ima-

him, and the ill-judging world considered him as one of her peculiar
favour-

" imagination. With these he possesses
 " many external and instrumental advantages, and he makes use of them all. His
 " fortune is among the largest ; a fortune
 " which, wholly unincumbered, as it is,
 " with one single charge from luxury, vanity, or excess, sinks under the benevolence of its dispenser. This private benevolence, expanding itself into patriotism, renders his whole being the estate
 " of the public, in which he has not reserved a *peculium* for himself of profit, diversion, or relaxation. During the session, the first in, and the last out of the
 " House of Commons ; he passes from the
 " Senate to the Camp ; and, seldom seeing
 " the seat of his ancestors, he is always in
 " Parliament to serve his country, or in the
 " field to defend it. But in all well-wrought
 " compositions, some particulars stand out
 " more eminently than the rest, and the
 " things which will carry his name to posterity are his two bills, the one for a
 " Limi-

favourites. He was rich, possessed a splendid reputation, and there was no bar between him and the hereditary honours of his family : but another object had long been the wish of his heart, and the moment of possession was the last of his existence.

	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*

“ Limitation of the Claims of the Crown
 “ upon landed Estates, and the other for
 “ the Relief of the Roman Catholics. By
 “ the former he has emancipated property ;
 “ by the latter, he has quieted conscience ;
 “ and by both, he has taught that grand
 “ lesson to Government and Subjects,---no
 “ longer to regard each other as adverse parties.”

* *

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*	*	*			

and he became
the victim of his own irresolution *.

* It must however be acknowledged, that his resolution was put to very severe trials. Indeed, the whole of this disgraceful transaction was worthy of the administration of the D— of G—. But if the great lawyer could have foreseen the subsequent conduct of those relations who reproached him even to death, he might still have lived an honour to himself and his country. These people, soon after the unfortunate end of the C— — —, joined in the support of those very Ministers,---a political connection with whom they had persuaded him was so disgraceful, that his sensibility would not suffer him to survive it.

Sir

Sir E— — B— — R—.

THE best proof of our having lived in the world is the having answered the end of our being in whatever situation Providence has placed us. It is a matter of no great difficulty to obtain a name, and even to secure immortality. The perpetration of a great crime, or the commission of some stupendous folly, will give to Vanity a certain security from oblivion. The villain who is related to have set fire to the Temple of Diana, and the fool who plunged himself into the gulph of *Ætna* for this purpose, attained the end of their wishes.

They

They are remembered, and will continue, to the end of the world, to be cited as examples of a strange, idle, and fatal ambition. The vices of the world make the most noise in it, and the violence of passion gives the loudest blasts to the trumpet of Fame.

An opinion of mankind, formed from the characters of those men who have appeared upon the public theatre, will be but an unpleasant companion to the humane breast which possesses it. On the other hand, there is much virtue and wisdom in private life, which are known only in the circle wherein they move :---there is much charity, which

which is not blazoned in the gilded rent-rolls of hospitals ; and there is much piety, which is not seen of men. To whom would the *Man of Ross* have been known, if an accidental visit in the neighbourhood of that place, which has been made happy by his virtues, had not brought him to the notice of Mr. *Pope*, whose moral song told his excellence to the world, and has given him the immortality he deserved ? Nevertheless, more real good and a more unsullied virtue are to be found in that man's retired life, than in the annals of a crowd of Heroes and Kings, whose names give splendor to the historic page, and whose characters are displayed,
in

in all the pomp of declamation, to the wonder of mankind *.

* There is a candour in this observation which greatly pleases me ; and it is with much satisfaction that I see the R— — writer's mind yield to the convictions of truth, though persons of his own exalted rank are the objects of its severity. The operations of self-love are various, and it will be found frequently to extend itself to every kind of similitude.—I remember a Baronet, possessed of a fine house, which sometimes invited the curious traveller to visit it, who had been known frequently to refuse admittance to persons of the first rank and fortune ; but was remarked never to have been guilty of a similar rudeness to one of his own title. A *Duke*, or a *my Lord*, &c. might be denied his hospitality ; but a *Sir William*, or a *Sir Thomas*, with a patent of yesterday, were sure of being overwhelmed with it. This sort of partiality is common in the world, and the reader need not employ more than common observation to discover it, more or less, in almost every condition and character around him.

The

The honourable Baronet, whose name is before me, though an old and diligent Member of Parliament, has preserved the more active part of his disposition for private life; and his tranquil worth would hardly have acquired him a reputation beyond the vicinity of his provincial habitation: but an accidental event, in the early part of his days, has given an extent to his name, to which private virtue, or perhaps the quiet exertion of public virtue, might not have conducted it*.

* This must allude to the memorable question of the Chippenham Election, on the petition, as I think, of this gentleman against the sitting Member; when Sir Robert Walpole found his influence so far on the decline, that his resignation very shortly followed.

Sir

Sir W——— B——.

THIS worthy Baronet is one among the too few that remain of the original, independent country gentlemen. He does his duty as a Senator ought to do it, from an honest, unbiaſſed principle ; and is never to be found among the hungry train who would devour the very vitals of a court*.

Sir

* The favourite doctrine of conversion, has marked this perſon's name with ſo much reſpect. The truth is as follows :---In ſpite of many unpleaſant qualities and very moderate talents, he has contrived to get at the head of the Cocoa-Tree Club, whom he perſuades to a ſubmiſſive obedience to Lord N—. This is his independence ; and that he is not troubleſome to the Miniſter may be

Sir H— — S— J—.

ANOTHER of the same respect and importance as the foregoing gentleman.---I wish, from my heart, that there were more of them *.

be true, as the latter is ready to forestal any application by an offer of what may be agreeable to him. One of his brothers is Receiver-General for London; and another is Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, with a mitre continually dancing before him. It must also be added, that this independent Country Gentleman is lately changed into an *independent* Lord.

* This worthy knight is also of the Co-coa-Tree, and firmly attached to prerogative. His great virtues, however, have not been able to secure his re-election for the County of S— — — at the last general election.

VOL. VI.

G

Alder-

Alderman B— —*.

I AM disposed to believe that this worthy Alderman possesses the integrity which his friends have zealously attached to him, with no inconsiderable share of understanding and information: but this vaunted excellence of his character suffers no small diminution from the affectation and eccentricity which accompany it. The Virtues appear so like Vices in the possession of such a man, that a very small degree of prejudice against him will be sufficient to give them an unfavourable denomination.

* This celebrated City Magistrate, having been a second time elected Lord-Mayor of London, died before his administration was compleated, in the year 1770.

Courage,

Courage, which is a necessary quality in every man, and is indispensable in certain situations, may, by an undue impetuosity, degenerate into what bears, at least, the appearance of Impudence and Rashness *. The efforts of an honest zeal, from a too sanguine exertion, may assume the colour of bitter resentment, and undiscerning anger. Manly Perseverance, which is necessary to attain the great objects of human pursuit, may be carried so far as to borrow the form of unyielding Obstinacy. The disposition to speak with unreserved free-

* He certainly did not want courage; and, in his dispute with Sir Charles Knowles, he conducted himself with all the punctilio and propriety which serves to establish the character of a manly Spirit, and a just sense of Honour.

dom, which is a distinguishing mark of a manly Character, when encouraged into an inveterate habit, and indulged without restraint, must frequently look like a design to offend, as well as an insensibility to praise or reproach ; and a bold, snarling, continual opposition to the measures of Government, however it may be qualified by occasional marks of humble respect to the Supreme Power, will beget a suspicion in the breasts of many, that it is nothing less than the disguised impatience of Republican Discontent.

Conscious Integrity, which gives an unspeakable dignity to him who rightly possesses it, if unaccompanied with somewhat of a decent, becoming

ing modesty, will be oftentimes mistaken for that Self-Conceit and assuming Importance, which expects universal submission, and becomes not only fretful, but inveterate, at the most candid opposition.

There is a singularity in the whole of this man's active life, which would justify more ample speculation than I shall bestow upon it. The different characters which he affected to possess,—to reconcile with each other, and sometimes even to blend in one motley mass, would furnish a curious subject for those whose leisure and abilities qualify them to study and observe upon the composition of the Human Heart. He is an eminent West-India Planter and Merchant, a

Member of Parliament, a Militia-Officer, a Provincial Magistrate, an Alderman of London, a Man of Taste, and a Country Gentleman *.

This

* Mr. B— — wanted the external graces of Manner and Expression:—adorned with those accomplishments, he would have made a first-rate figure in his day. He possessed a sound understanding, and very extensive knowledge of British Politics, especially that important part of it which relates to Trade and Commerce; nor did he ever disgrace himself by a variableness or inconsistency of conduct. His manners were not pleasant; but this circumstance did not arise so much from a crabbed disposition, as from an ardent, impetuous turn of mind, whose fervours he always indulged. This impetuous animation, accompanied with an unharmonious voice, and vehemence of action, prevented his public speaking, as well as his private conversation, from receiving that attention, and affording that pleasure, which, from his knowledge and abilities,

the

This complex, variegated Character, receiving a very considerable
 impor-

the one might be supposed to deserve, and the other to have produced. In the House of Commons, he oftentimes called forth the laughter, and frequently promoted the languor, of his audience, from no other cause than the neglect of digesting and arranging the matter he delivered: and I will venture to assert, that, with whatever irregularity he might discourse as a Senator, he never spoke in that character without conveying very solid information upon the subject before him. He most certainly did not possess that strong, rapid, convincing oratory, which draws the heart after it, and hushes-opposition into silence: nevertheless, I remember a singular instance of his success in this particular, when, I believe, the most polished Eloquence would have been exerted in vain. The speech to which I allude, and the circumstances of it, were as follows:—At a meeting of the Livery of London at Guildhall, for the

importance from the possession of enormous wealth, aids the natural fire of

nomination of Members to serve them in Parliament, Mr. B— —, who had already represented them, attended, in order to justify himself against the accusation then generally prevalent throughout the city, that he had not duly attended, for some time past, upon his duty as an Alderman. —The Hall was crowded in every part of it; and when Mr. B— — came forward upon the Hustings to address the Livery, he was received with the most tumultuous marks of contempt and aversion. For upwards of an hour he attempted to speak, and was prevented by the hisses, groans, and outrageous displeasure of the irritated Assembly. At length, however, his resolution prevailed, silence was obtained, and he addressed the Common-Hall in the following manner:—" Gentlemen of the Livery of London, and Fellow-Citizens,—I thought it my duty to attend here this day, both in justice to you, and to your faithful humble servant. I had been informed,

of his temper and the haughtiness of his heart. It is, however, a common
and

“ formed,---and my present experience convinces me I was truly informed,---that a
“ very unfavourable opinion had gone
“ forth against me, among my late worthy
“ constituents. Permit me to say, Gentlemen, with the boldness becoming an honest man, that I have not deserved it. —
“ It has been my chief pride to be a Representative of the first City in the Universe, and I shall relinquish such an
“ honour with much concern and mortification ; but I will not flatter you in order to obtain the continuance of it. It
“ is my duty to speak out, and act, as I
“ have ever done, with openness and integrity. My abilities may not be equal to
“ those of many other Gentlemen whom
“ you may chuse to represent you ; but I
“ defy you to find any-one who shall serve
“ you with more zeal and attention than I
“ have done ; a zeal and attention which,
“ give me leave to say, does not deserve
“ the degrading reception I have met with
“ from

and a just observation, that vicious
Pride is equally disposed to humble
itself

“ from you this day. But I am informed,
“ that I am more particularly accused of
“ not regularly attending my duty in the
“ Court of Aldermen, and elsewhere, as
“ one of your Magistrates. In some de-
“ gree, I plead guilty to that charge;—
“ but I must beg of you to remember, that,
“ during the winter, I am engaged in do-
“ ing my duty as your Representative in
“ Parliament: and when I am obliged to
“ attend the House of Commons, I cannot
“ attend the Court of Aldermen;—for no
“ man can be in two places at one time.
“ During the summer, Gentlemen, I have,
“ of late, been engaged in doing my duty
“ as an Officer in the Militia, and thereby
“ promoting, to the utmost of my power,
“ that excellent, necessary, and constitu-
“ tional establishment:—and when I am
“ engaged in attendance upon the Militia,
“ I cannot attend the Court of Aldermen,
“ —for no man can be in two places at
“ one time. It has been told me also,
“ that

itself before its superiors, as to play
the tyrant over those who are de-
pendent

“ that I have given offence to many of you
“ by not canvassing your votes :—I am for-
“ ry for it ; because I respect you too much,
“ and love the constitution of my country
“ too well, to infringe on the freedom of
“ election ; of which, in these corrupt
“ times, this city still continues to give a
“ most glorious example. If you recollect,
“ Gentlemen, I did not canvass you at
“ last general election ; I have not can-
“ vassed you for the approaching one, and
“ I tell you honestly, I never will canvass
“ you. You shall elect me without a can-
“ vass, or not at all.—This is the justifica-
“ tion of myself which I offer to you ; and, if
“ it should not satisfy you, I must be con-
“ tent to thank you for your past favours,
“ and to assure you, that, if you should not
“ elect me, I shall still have a seat in the
“ House of Commons, and I will continue
“ to exert my best endeavours for your ser-
“ vice, as I always have done.”——The
burst of applause, which succeeded to this
singular

pendent upon or subject to it ; of which this gentleman is a striking example. He who has, with an unembarrassed countenance, endeavoured to bully an House of Commons, and perhaps, with less reserve, to brow-beat a Court of Common Council, and the assembled Livery of London, is Humility itself in the presence of the Earl of Chatham *.

Sir

singular but spirited harangue, was, if possible, superior to the noisy dissatisfaction which preceded it ; and Mr. B—— left the Hall amidst a tumult of approbation which made ample amends for the insults he received at his entrance into it.—I need not add that he was afterwards elected, and continued to receive the encreasing favour of his fellow-citizens to his death.

* At the time, when, in the character of chief

Sir S— — — F— —.

IN a country, the basis of whose strength and the source of whose prosperity is Commerce, those men who by their industry, abilities, or a bold and hazardous exertion of their fortunes, have encreased its channels, may be justly considered

chief Magistrate of London, he made the unexpected and remarkable reply to his Majesty's Answer to the City's Address, the busy babblers of ministerial suggestions gave out that he was persuaded into this measure by Lord Chatham, who, they were pleased to add, dictated the speech, and had frequently made the Lord Mayor rehearse it before him. If, however, his possession of a low, vicious pride has no other proof but his sense of that Nobleman's great and superior talents, I am disposed to think that his character will pass down to posterity entirely free from such a disgraceful imputation.

as worthy of the best remunerations it has to bestow. The brave, experienced Officer, the able Statesman, the accomplished Senator, the profound Lawyer, all look to the hereditary honours of their Country for their great reward; and distinguished merit, in every one of these situations, well deserves them. An opinion has often pressed upon my private reflections, that the Merchant who has risked his property, and passed a sedulous, painful life in extending the limits of trade, and thereby opening new channels of wealth to his country, possesses claims by no means inferior to any order of men in the State. But, even in the most enlightened age, and among a people celebrated for know-

knowledge and liberality of Sentiment, Reason must sometimes yield to Prejudice : and if a man whose commercial genius and pursuits had been of the first utility to his country ; if another Sir Thomas Gresham were to be rewarded for his public services by the patent of a Peerage ; the noble body who possesses the honour would think itself disgraced, and the nation at large, though proud of its commercial character and glory, would not be satisfied with such a supposed blemish in the rank of its hereditary representatives.

Without entering at large into the propriety of opening a new road to the first honours of this kingdom,

dom, I may observe with truth, that he who establishes manufactories at home, and enlarges the scale of commerce abroad, is at least a person of real consequence to the State. Does not such an one increase the means of employment to the labouring poor ? Does he not extend the reputation of British Skill and British Integrity, and open a new influx of wealth to his country ? These are services whose importance must be evident to every one : may it therefore be asked, why the man who has performed them should not be admitted to the principal rank of that Society which has received such eminent benefit from him. If, in military Governments, Honours are monopolized by the Soldier ;

Soldier ; in a Commercial Country, the Merchant, surely, on certain occasions, might be permitted to share them. The highest order of Nobles amongst us does not disdain to make alliance with the Accompting-house ; and it is not possible for a Peer to think it a disgrace to his rank, that the Father of his Wife and the Ancestor of his Children should partake of his own Honours. There are some examples of the younger branches of Nobility who have engaged in trade, and have not been thought to disgrace their birth by their professions ; nor do I find, where, by the death of intervening relations, the noble Merchant has succeeded to the honours of his family, that the Peerage has

considered him as a contaminated Member of it *.

The eclat which naturally attends the career of the Soldier, and the great dependence which the interest and glory of our country has upon naval abilities, besides the habitual modes of rewarding the heroes of war in all countries, antient and modern, will give them an undisputed pre-eminence. The Statesman, especially of the higher denomination, has a natural claim to those

* The Earl of *Oxford's* brother, who is also a Privy Counsellor, is a Merchant. Two of Lord *Walpole's* brothers are also in trade; and the Earldom of *Roseberry* descended to its present possessor, when he was engaged in the business of an Accompting-house.

honours

honours among which he has lived, to which he has been at times officially superior, and are sometimes essential to his station. But, on revolving the matter in my most serious thoughts, I cannot discover any reason why Commerce has not an equal claim to the Peerage with the Law: nor has any argument occurred to my reflection, which, in the matter before me, may be advanced against the former, but may with equal justice be applied to the disadvantage of the latter.

The Law is denominated a liberal pursuit, and Merchandize is not honoured with that appellation. Now, if by this title is understood a profession that requires superior

education and superior talents, the knowledge whereof is not to be obtained but by great labour of the mind, is incapable of being transferred to another, and cannot be eased by those mechanical rules which save the pains of thought and the hazard of misfortune ;—if this is a just definition, I cannot conceive but that the higher branches of Commerce are as liberal as the profession of the Bar.

The object of gain will, I believe, be acknowledged to be common to them both ; and the Office of the Attorney, the Chambers of the Special Pleader, Conveyancer, and Chancery Draughtsman, or even the Library of the higher order of
Plead-

Pleading Council, cannot be said, on any liberal principle, to be superior to the Accompting-house. The education of a Merchant deserves an attention equal to that of the other profession. The interests, produce, customs, language, &c. of other countries, together with those of his own country, with many other branches of knowledge, are the objects of commercial instruction; and to prepare the mind of the future Merchant, to make a wise and happy application of his abilities to his professional pursuits, it is necessary he should receive that education which may with strict justice be denominated liberal, and acquire those manners which deserve the

same title *.——The mere study of books is less necessary in the one than in the other ; but the application of the mind is equally requisite; where Commerce is pursued with zeal, industry, and a spirit of enterprise †. The plodding character, which is so generally applied to trade, is equally applicable to the business of Westminster Hall, where heavy perseverance frequently leaves unsuccessful genius behind it. The Courts of Justice do not afford a

* The progress of education in the Mercantile Academy at *Hamburgh* fully justifies this observation.

† Indeed nothing can be more opposite to a genuine spirit of liberality, than the Library of a Lawyer.

more

more striking spectacle to the philosophical politician than the Royal Exchange, while the public commercial offices do not yield in orderly regulation to those of the Law departments, and, with respect to the external appearance of business, far excel them. If Trade is considered as mechanical, the opposed profession cannot elevate itself above the same description ; and I am very much disposed to believe, that the spirit of Laws, and the effects of them, are oftentimes more clearly seen and understood by the well-instructed and experienced Merchant than by the Lawyer himself.—The debates of the public corporate bodies, and even of the House of Commons, will confirm the truth of this observation.

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That

That the Man of Commerce becomes with less toil, and more readily, acquainted with the nature and extent of his profession, will be acknowledged ; and it will be as willingly allowed, that, where he has able and confidential assistants, he can, when his line and track of business is firmly established, transfer a part of its duties to them ;---privileges which the Lawyer does but very partially enjoy. If, however, any advantage is gained by such a circumstance, it is certainly on the side of the Merchant, who thereby acquires a leisure for those liberal and unshackled pursuits which improve and enlarge the mind.—This comparison might be carried much farther ; and, I believe, the utmost extent

tent of it would be found to justify the sentiments I have already delivered *.

These

* The profession of Commerce requires that they who engage in it should possess a certain degree of equality ; so that, if Nobles were permitted to enter into it, they might become Merchants of such unbounded credit as to monopolize every-thing to themselves. It may be for this reason that the Venetian Nobility are debarred from commerce. There is, however, somewhat of a plausible amusive fancy in the above observations, which might have indulged itself in a more enlarged flight, without affording conviction to the reflecting politician. The Chinese, a people renowned for the wisdom of their internal regulations, and whose riches consist in agriculture, bestow an annual reward upon the husbandman who is that year the most distinguished of his profession ; but it goes no farther than to make him a Mandarin of the eighth clais : and the title of Baronet, which may, in some degree,
answer

These hasty and, I must own, unexpected thoughts, arose from the character of the industrious, spirited, and wealthy citizen, whose name precedes them:—a man who pro-

answer to it in point of rank, is frequently conferred upon the eminent Merchants of our own kingdom.—As to the arguments which are adopted to prove the equal claim, at least, of the Law and the mercantile Profession, they are fanciful, partial, and possess little foundation. The administration of public justice must be attended with that form and solemnity which would ruin commerce; and they who are appointed to the exercise of it, being the representatives of sovereign executive power, and, as it were, the emanations of majesty, must possess the emblems of its dignity. There is no small distinction to be made between characters of men who are encreasing the wealth of a nation and those who watch over the virtue of it. Commerce begets riches, but it is the Law which, by its protection, gives vigour to Commerce.

moted,

moted, carried on, and, as it were, formed a most extensive trade in the grand staple commodity of this country, and thereby acquired a fortune which is more than sufficient to sustain the dignity of any rank in the kingdom *.

I—

* Sir S——— F—— was a Blackwell-Hall Factor of the first eminence. His origin, I have been informed, was so low as to be employed in attending the pack-horses which were formerly used to bring cloth from the West Country to London. By great industry, a spirit of enterprize, and good fortune, he acquired prodigious wealth, and arrived at great importance in the commercial world; and, without remitting a most continued attention to the objects of this extensive commerce, he lived in all the taste and luxury of Nobility; to which, indeed, he had by his second marriage allied himself. Though by some unexpected manœuvres against him he was an unsuccessful

Candidate

J— H— —, Esq.

THERE is no one who may not receive great advantages and assistance from scientific knowledge ;
never-

Candidate to represent the City of London, he was chosen in several Parliaments for the Borough of Chippenham, in Wiltshire. During his Mayoralty, the King and Royal Family were entertained by the City, at Guildhall, with great magnificence ; and the Chair of the Metropolis was supported with great splendor. An unfortunate moment of avarice, however, beclouded his reputation, and is supposed to have shortened his life. As the assignee of a bankrupt, the creditors were discontented not only with his conduct, but the means he had pursued to be appointed to that trust ; and, on an hearing of the business before Lord Camden, these discontents not only appeared to be too well-founded, but a discovery was also made of a contraband trade he had carried on in
scarlet

nevertheless, to give its benefits their true use, value, and respect, it must appear, at least, to arise from the natural abilities and capacity of the person who possesses it. Simplicity is the grand virtue of Art, however employed : to give works of labour the appearance of ease, requires no common taste or talents. The walking Dictionary, and the brutal Pedant, make Learning itself disgusting, and rob Truth of its lovely appearance. The hewers of stone and the drawers of water in the literary world,

scarlet cloth, to the detriment of the East-India Company. The Lord Chancellor reprehended his conduct in the most severe terms, and decreed against him. Sir S——, who was present in Court, sunk, as it were, beneath the chastisement, and did not long survive it.

may

may be necessary to ease the labours of genius ; they may be useful, as the pioneers of learning, to remove those obstacles which would check the ardour of diligent enquiry, turn youthful impatience into despair, and discourage those talents which promise excellence, from activity and exertion. Such men bear the same relation to the higher orders of the learned world, as the labour of the quarry to the skill of the sculptor. Such men should be known only in their works, nor check the gratitude of mankind by intruding their awkward manners and dogmatical pride into the more liberal societies of it,

This learned critic is a most respectable exception from the general character

character of those persons who have passed their lives in similar labours. He has the rare faculty to mingle with his profound enquiries the graces of Parnassus as well as the pleasures of elegant Society *. His works
mani-

* The allusion which is here made to this learned Gentleman's connection with the Muses, not only relates to his great love and profound knowledge of musical science, but to his unparalleled works of Criticism, which may be justly called the Handmaid of Parnassus. He also wrote and published a little dramatic piece of pastoral poetry, called *The Spring*, which consisted of recitatives and songs adapted to Italian music, and was written to favour the introduction of that excellent singer, Mr. *Norris*, upon the stage. But the young man did not then succeed, as he has since done in another line of his profession; and this musical entertainment fell with him. The drama was perfectly simple; and the songs, &c.
were

'manifest the vast compass of his erudition, the vigor of his application, and the clear, distinctive, penetrating sagacity of his mind; while his private conversation displays the unaffected, pleasing manners of the amiable and accomplished Gentleman.

They, who employ their Abilities merely to acquire reputation, skim lightly over the subjects they treat, and apply themselves rather to the Fancy and Passion of the reader than to his Judgment and Understanding. They, who exercise their

were chastely written, as well as most wonderfully adapted to the Italian airs they were intended to naturalize on the English stage.—Considered in this light, the little production possessed unrivalled merit.

talents

talents in a professional light, work generally by rule and measure, and give their productions no further extent and completion than is necessary to procure the gain which is the object of them: while they alone, who exert their faculties from an intrinsic love of the science they pursue, never forsake it till they have traced it in its deepest recesses, followed it through all its most intricate labyrinths, unveiled its most hidden disguise, and are not content till they possess all its parts, behold its perfect form, and can command all its capacities.—This seems to be the inherent character of this renowned critic; who, being neither tormented by an anxious thirst after Fame, nor impelled by the urging goad of

Necessity, finds that satisfaction in his arduous enquiries, which encreases the placid tenor of his mind, and promotes those dispositions which give such a pleasing serenity to his manners and conversation *.

* Mr. H— —'s work, entitled, "Hermes, or a Treatise on universal Grammar," will preserve his fame while any desire of knowledge or love of literature remains in the world. The present Bishop of London has declared,-- and what more sterling testimony can be given,---that it is the most perfect work of its kind since the days of Aristotle. His other publications serve to confirm the high opinion which this age has formed, and future ages will possess, of his consummate excellence in the walk of Criticism.

J— M— —, Esq.

AMONG the crowd of persons who have professed a sincerity of attachment to me, there are some whom I am more particularly disposed to consider as acting from the dictates of their hearts ; and I form my conclusion upon this subject not merely from their actions, but also from their general characters and dispositions. Among them, I have the pleasure to rank this constitutional Lawyer. He has been an object of my favour ; and, to do him that justice of which I have found so few deserving, it becomes

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me to declare that he has not proved ungrateful *.

L— B———.

THIS Nobleman is another of those who consider themselves bound to the service of Government, and attend to the duties of their requisite employments, without entering into the intrigues of party, or forming those strong political connections, with which the individual,

* Mr. M—— was a sensible man, of Tory principles, and a good Lawyer. He was ever a most strenuous advocate for the right of taxing America, and maintained that opinion to the last.

who

who is governed by them, must rise and fall *.

The abilities of the Secretary at War were never considered by me as of a superior cast ; but he possesses that industry with which great abili-

* I have heard Lord B———, who is not remarkable for witty or brilliant thoughts, make an apt allusion to the profits of Government. He considered, to use his own expression, every Administration as a *Plumb Cake*; and he never failed to accompany this elegant idea with a declaration that he would do his best at all times to have a slice of it. On his being accused of stealing the comparison from the humour of the late *Charles Townshend*, he acknowledged the theft, but begged he might have the merit of improving upon the grossness of the original idea, as that witty Statesman was used to honour Government with the more solid title of a *Plumb Pudding*.

ties are not always accompanied ; and without which, in the important offices of the State, they cannot be of any permanent utility. This attention to the duties of his employment, and the knowledge he consequently acquired, may be supposed to have induced many successive changes of Administrations, consisting of men of very different characters and connections, to be satisfied that he should continue to conduct the military department.

In such a situation, when every day brings with it so many requests that cannot be granted, and such various applications which must be immediately dismissed, it is impossible that he can give a general satisfaction ;

tion ; nay, it is most certain, that he must be the necessary object of much discontent. The exact history of the public murmurs, against this or any Minister, cannot, in the common course of things, come to my knowledge ; but, as his conduct has been approved by his different coadjutors in the State, it would be injurious in me not to suppose that an occasional clamour against him, the distant noise whereof may reach me, arises from the refusal of demands which it was not in his power, or consistent with the views of Government, to gratify*.

—Ministers are the servants of the

* Sir John D— — —, I believe, will be of a different opinion, if a judgment may be formed from his Letters to Lord B— — —, which he gave to the world.

State ; and, when it happens that they become unpopular from obeying its commands, or acting from its present exigencies, it is the duty of their Master to give them not only support and protection, but reward *.

The

* Lord B——— has been one of those wise men who call themselves the King's friends ; a character which means no more than the possessing a sensible resolution to keep a profitable place in all times and all administrations ; and to live upon terms of good-humour with the men who may come into power, as well as those who are already in possession of it. That he understood the routine of his office is generally acknowledged, and the reasons given above are proofs of it. He was, in the real as well as figurative sense of the word, a Courtier ; possessed all the ready politeness, evasions, and servility of that character. He knew how to apply his specious bows, his flattering speeches, and polite epistles, with no
small

The crowd of mankind are apt to
judge of causes from their effects ;
and,

small address. He has also contrived to serve a few friends, and to procure the promotion of his near relations, in their different lines of profession. He is a man of polite manners, and maintains his rank with somewhat of character and propriety. He has ever been particularly attentive to foreign Ministers and Strangers of Fashion, whom he never failed to entertain, on proper occasions, with splendid hospitality ; so that his Letters of Recommendation to foreign countries are known to have procured greater favour and attention than those of almost any other person in the kingdom. — His summer societies, at his country-seat, cannot be exceeded in ease, plenty, and elegance : and, though he was obliged, during his ministerial life, to be continually absent, every arrangement proceeded as if he were present ; and he appeared rather as a visitor than as master of the house, and the receiver, rather than the donor, of those
fatis-

and, in the simple ordinary affairs of life, it may be a natural and satisfactory

satisfactions which every one enjoyed who frequented it. — His conduct on the death of Lady B — — — was singular and deserves to be remembered. On that event, he immediately settled the whole of his real estate on his nephews, the sons of his next brother, the late General B — — —, and gave the following original but sensible reason for his conduct. “ There is no fool,” observed his Lordship, “ like the old fool ; “ and I, like many other doting debauchees, “ may dream of pleasure with a young wife, “ who, not satisfied with an old husband, “ may, with the help of a smart valet de “ chambre, or a stout coachman, give me a “ collusive heir to my estate, and rob my relations of their right : and having never “ been able to answer for myself in these “ matters, it is my resolution to preclude “ any possible mischief of this nature, by “ securing my fortune, at all events, to the “ children of my brother. As to the Irish
“ Peerage,”

factory mode of determination ; but,
in the complicated business of national

“ Peerage,” continued his Lordship, “ which
“ is not worth having, that must be left to
“ Chance ; but as for the dirty aeres, which
“ are worth something, they shall be placed
“ out of the reach of it.”——

Lord B—— —’s friends will say that this
is not an age for rigid integrity to thrive ;
and it was, therefore, natural for a man,
whose temper was proverbially accommoda-
ting, to fall in with the temper of the times.
They may, however, be disposed to give one
example of his stubborn honour, when he
hesitated, and even hinted a refusal, to give
evidence on the trial of the Duchess of
Kingston. However stubborn his honour
was on that occasion, had I been a Peer of
the Realm, I should, I trust, have possessed a
stubborn honour as well as his Lordship ; I
should most certainly have considered his
conduct as an high contempt of that supreme
court, and have moved for his commitment

tional government, where so much of the machine necessarily lies hid, this manner of proceeding is at least precarious, and oftentimes unjust. There are necessities which the eye of mankind cannot nor ought to see : there are views, with respect to future objects, whose operations would be interrupted by public communication. Obstacles arise which could not be foreseen ; disappointments happen which could not be prevented ; and, after all, error is inseparable from every effort of human wisdom : so that to suppose a Minister wicked or incapable, because he may have been unfortunate, is to suppose that

to the custody of *Sir Francis Molyneux*, and the society of the Lady, for whose secrets he manifested such a scrupulous tenderness.

he

he can command time and chance, the course of human events, and, which would be a still more difficult task, the passions of men. To exercise an headstrong violence against human imperfections, especially in those whose arduous situations render a correctness of conduct more difficult, is an act of the most impertinent presumption ; -- nay, it is to quarrel with the lot of humanity, and to arraign the wisdom of Heaven.

A plan may be formed with much knowledge, and every favourable circumstance may co-operate to give an almost assured prospect of success ; nevertheless, from some untoward event, trifling in itself, but from its nature unforeseen, the whole
may

may end in disappointment and distress. On such an occasion, too many, at least for a time, would throw an inconsiderate blame upon those who projected and promoted it. This, surely, is the extreme of injustice; it is the same as if the danger with which part of *Holland* was threatened from the hole that had been formed by a water-rat in one of its dykes, was to be attributed to the man whose hardy genius conducted the industry that formed those wonderful efforts of human perseverance. But of similar injustice many a great and good man has been the unfortunate victim.

It has been the practice of some Governments to make a ready sacrifice

fice of a Minister to appease popular discontent, however capricious or ill-founded. Indeed, Democratic Fury is a monster, whose rage, like those deities of Pagan fable who were not to be appeased but by the immolation of virgin beauty, may demand the sacrifice of virtue and the disgrace of wisdom; and, to prevent greater evils, it may sometimes happen that its horrid appetite must be satisfied. It is, however, the duty of that power, which yields by force the reluctant victim, to give it every possible protection; and, if it should survive the threatening stranger, to restore it to those honours it never deserved to lose, or to brighten with every possible consolation the gloom of
that

that retreat to which an ungrateful world has driven it.

This is the sentiment of my heart :
I have already lived to realize it ;
but I trust and hope I shall not again be compelled to such a painful and imperfect exertion of justice.

Sir J— L— —.

THE caprice and fancy of some men are very unaccountable. With the influence and wealth which this Baronet possesses, he might command those honours of his country which are most desired. A seat among

among the hereditary representatives of the nation, waits upon his demand; but he has rivetted his wishes to a bauble which cannot be granted to him, and turns his back upon the solid advantages of the Peerage*.

There

* His great object is the Garter: he has repeatedly asked for it, and been as often refused. His ambition thinks an Earldom beneath him, and sighs to remain a Commoner with the empty ornament of the Blue Ribbon. With all the means of procuring to himself popular regard and a fair fame, he is, to say no worse, the object of universal dissatisfaction. He seems to be formed with an inveteracy of character which will ever remove him from the best honours of social life. I turn aside from his domestic conduct, as an unpleasing and disgraceful object: but what can be expected from a man who suffered an estate purposely to remain untenanted and lie waste, to deprive

VOL. VI.

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the

There are many reasons which dispose me to attach him to my service by any prudent means ; and it is with concern that I observe the variableness and inconsistency of his political conduct *.

*	*	*	*	*	*
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*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*			

the clergyman of the parish, with whom he had quarrelled, from receiving the tythes of it?

* His parliamentary interest is very great, and he is the son-in-law of Lord B—.

Sir

Sir W— — — M— — —.

THE friendship of a subject for his Sovereign must express itself by a conduct totally opposite to that which takes place among persons of the same rank. That pleasing, gentle joy, which brightens the countenance at the sight of a friend ; the cares, attentions, and confidence, with all the exterior marks of sentiment, so natural between men who expect nothing from each other but the satisfaction of mutual regard ; are not permitted to approach the Throne. Flattery will sometimes borrow the marks even of Veneration, and intrude itself into the presence of Kings ; but

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he,

he, who suffers himself to be surprized by it, becomes as low in reason as the cunning hypocrite who wishes to seduce him.

If a King should want a friend,--- and, alas ! where is the King to be found who is not in such a predicament?-- it is not in the crowd of such base and mercenary spirits that he must hope to find it. For such an interesting purpose he should direct his expectations to those men whose characters are more disposed to a blunt inflexibility, than a thoughtless compliance ; who are not afraid to expose the naked truth, but leave no method untried to turn the eye of their master towards it. Friends of this kind are less pleasing ;

pleasing ; but who will be bold enough to say they are not of higher estimation ? Among equals, Friendship may put on a tender and affecting appearance, without being suspected of deceit ; but inferiors can only discover it towards the great by assiduity, resolution, and sometimes even by severity. The faithful friend of a Prince will steadily oppose any measure which may cause his dishonour, and, to his face, condemn the wishes of his heart, if they proceed from a low and unprincely passion *. But where
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* The conduct of *Sully* to *Henry the Fourth of France* was one continued example of that manly freedom which a faithful Minister owes to his Sovereign :--I shall give an example of it.—The King, in a weak mo-
K 3 ment,

are men to be found who are capable of such noble efforts, and possess so firm, and, I may add, to themselves, so dangerous an attachment? The few of this character who are now living in the world, merit the veneration of their Sovereign :--- what do I say?—They deserve a temple in the hearts of all mankind *.

But,

ment, had given a written promise of marriage to *Mademoiselle D'Entragues*, his mistress, and shewed it to *Sully* for his opinion of the matter. The Minister took it, read it, and immediately tore it in pieces without saying a word. — “ *Comment morbleu,*” dit *Henri*, “ *que pretendez vous donc faire? Je crois que vous etes fou. Il est vrai, Sire,*” lui repartit *Sully*; “ *je suis fou, et plait à Dieu que je le fusse tout seul en France.*”

* The late Lord Northington, who had habituated himself to a bluntness of manners
and

But, alas ! characters of a very different complexion surround the Thrones of Princes. Ambition is the ruling passion of Courts, to which all others yield : for what is sordid Interest but a low species of Ambition with wealth for its object ? Among the many motives, however, which urge men to solicit honours and employments, and among the various means which are exerted to attain them, a sense of honour and spirit of perseverance, if they do not succeed in obtaining their particular objects, will not fail to give some degree of consequence

and speech, owed much of the great favour he received from the crown, to a very natural and amiable supposition, that it arose from a fixed integrity of character.

as well as character to their endeavours. A fickle, inconstant disposition is ever the mark of a weak mind, and, under certain circumstances, the proof of a bad one *.

G—

* The Right Honourable Baronet, to whose weakness there is a strong allusion in this observation, has, I think, never been eminent for steadiness of character. He quitted on a sudden all the violence of Opposition for the honours of a White Wand, and the emoluments of Court attendance. These he possessed for some years, when he left the Court, and returned again, I was going to add, to the bosom of Opposition; but I believe he has so far forfeited their good opinion, as not to be the object of their confidence. When men of this stamp desert their party in this manner, their views may be divined without the gift of supernatural intelligence. When he quitted Opposition he might perceive that his party was not likely to be received into Power; and when he left the Ministry, he might think

G— F— — —, Esq.

IT is rather a singular circumstance, that there should be a Member of the House of Commons, who has sat in several Parliaments, and is a Gentleman of good family and fortune, of whom I never hear,

think he foresaw that they would not long possess it. This is not an unfair representation of Sir W— — —'s conduct. Nevertheless, it must be allowed that he possesses Parliamentary abilities, and has applied himself to the acquisition of Parliamentary knowledge. It may not be improper also to mention, that the singular revival of the trial of *Balf* and *Macquirk*, who were condemned for murder in the notorious riots at *Brentford*, on the notorious Middlesex Election, was suggested, industriously supported, and the final event of it highly approved, by this Right Honourable Gentleman.

and

and whose face I scarce remember to have seen *.

* When the singularity of the man is considered, every other will disappear. He is not very visible even in the country where he lives, but in the hunting season; and when an hard frost impertinently keeps his hounds in kennel, he may be seen in one or other of the coffee-houses in the Strand, or that neighbourhood, at dinner-time; and sometimes, during the evening, in the pit of one of the play-houses, with an oak stick in his hand, a broad gold-laced hat upon his head, between the acts, and a little doxy by his side. This Honourable Gentleman seldom troubles the House of Commons with his attendance, unless the Opposition want to make some particular exertion, when, pretty early in the debate, if he should attend at the beginning of it, he may be seen, forgetful of his own and his country's cares, in the arms of Morpheus.

R— —

R— — G— — —, Esq.

“ An honest Man's the noblest work of God.”

AS there are various classes of vice and infamy, there are also different degrees of virtue and renown. In taking a view of this subject, many and various thoughts must occur upon the lamentable state of frail humanity. It must be acknowledged,---for Experience will tell us it is not empty speculation,---that honest actions, in the general sense of the word, are not always the effects of virtue, but arise from the casual circumstances around us. It may be a man's interest to be honest ; the remoteness of temptation may operate in his favour ; the habitual temper
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of his mind, and the constitution of his frame, may check those desires which are such known enemies to human virtue *. I am firmly persuaded, that many a man, who could not be induced to act against the suggestions of his conscience by the common gains of his profession, would be able to hush its compunctions, if accumulated gains were to follow the secret commission of injustice †.

How

* This subject is finely considered in Mr. *Sterne's* Sermon upon *Conscience*.

† The following anecdote may be thought too trifling, as well as too general, to serve in proof of the opinion to which it alludes: but, as it possesses the merit of veracity, I shall venture to relate it.—A physician, of some eminence, attended a gentleman of moderate

How many sad examples might be produced of men, who, in the shades of life, enjoyed an honest fame in peace and contentment,

moderate circumstances, and from whom the Doctor had received very singular obligations: for these reasons, the guinea, which was constantly offered him, was as constantly refused. The illness was long and obstinate, but, by the skill and attention of the Physician, it was at length overcome, and the time arrived when he was to pay his last professional visit. The Patient, who possessed sentiments superior to his fortune, prepared fourscore guineas against the Doctor's arrival; when he presented the golden heap, and desired his acceptance of it. The son of *Esculapius*, who had for eighty successive visits refused the common fee without difficulty, was unable to resist it in its accumulated state, and in one avaritious moment lost the merit of his past generosity, and the satisfaction of having made the only return of gratitude in his power to an acknowledged benefactor.

but,

but, when elevated by the changes and chances of time to higher station, have rushed into all the excesses of the world, and bid defiance to the good opinion of it? On the contrary, who has not been a witness to the woeful change of principles which the humiliating fall from superior life so continually produces?—Alas! how seldom is the integrity of prosperous days able to support itself against the necessities which an unexpected adversity brings along with it!—Where are the unfortunate who find consolation, for every-thing they have lost, in that virtue which is the only blessing Fortune has not taken from them? We cannot look into the world, without beholding the secret

cret or open approaches which the foes of honour are making to destroy it. Do we not hourly see Generosity growing into Profusion, Prudence retreating into Suspicion, Economy sinking into Avarice, Truth budding into Flattery, Good-nature losing itself in Submission, Justice hardening into Severity, the desire of honest Reputation rising into lawless Ambition, and Religion bewildered in the mazes of Enthusiasm?

The benevolent observer may wish to draw a veil over this picture of human weakness, but he must acknowledge the existence of the sad original. He will sigh over the degeneracy of mankind, and
that

that tender impulse of commiseration proves the nature of its object. As frail beings, liable to equal infirmities with our fellow-creatures, we may be said to act presumptuously, when we cry aloud against the scene of iniquity of which we compose a part; nor have any of us a right, from our knowledge of the human heart, and the continual deceits that flow from it, to throw suspicion around that character whose actions wear the colour of virtue, and whose integrity is free from apparent blemish. To charge unimpeached Honesty with successful Deceit, from the great prevalence and frequent detection of Hypocrisy, is an exercise of opinion which would be criminal in the
com-

common affairs of life :—but the Philosopher, who is enlisted in the service of Truth, will not trust to any appearance ; and Religion, which conducts Truth beyond the limits of this world, must have incontestible proofs of that integrity which can claim its consolations in time, and its rewards in eternity.

The man who, blessed with amiable dispositions, and educated in virtuous principles, is suffered to remain in a situation where he may meet with little or no interruption, must be considered as a fortunate Voyager on the Ocean of Time. But there is a virtue far superior to his :—it is that which withstands and surmounts the tempest ; which,

not confiding in prosperous gales, is prepared to meet the adverse wave ; and, though not insensible to the Syren's song, resists its enchantment. He is the great and superior character, whose integrity has been unmoved by difficulty, danger, and adversity ;---who yields not to any temptation, and has passed through the fiery trial of the world, in which such numbers have been lost, unhurt, and arrives at the close of life with tried integrity and confirmed virtue.

I thank Heaven, that, though it may be rare to find, such an idea is not without foundation ; and is universally acknowledged to possess a reality in the excellent character
of

of the honourable Gentleman, whose name suggested the preceding observations *.

L— I— —.

THE Passions occupy the greatest part of life, and Regret seizes upon the rest! How aban-

* Mr. G— — — is not overcharged in this high-wrought opinion of him. He is almost the only man who is returned from an *East-India* Government with clean hands and a pure heart. With the noble and just ideas which the R— — Writer possesses of this Gentleman's character, it must be a matter of some mortification to him to reflect, that, in his parliamentary capacity, he generally opposes the measures of his Majesty's Ministers.

doned, then, must that man be, whose regret is not for the errors of his passions, but for the decay of them; while his mind, instead of disposing him to compensate for former failings, employs its reflections, as it were, to continue them! Thus he fills up the measure of his profligacy. The fever of youth may be cured; but that of Age knows no final remedy but the grave.

When a man attains a certain period of life, without losing the vices of youth, nay, without continual endeavours to cherish the worst of them, he may be considered, with great justice, as a truly depraved and abandoned character; a disgrace to his nature and to himself,---as well
as

as the source of infinite mischief to youth, who are glad to find an example, in his age, to justify their own enormities.

If it were to be asked, of any reflecting person, what punishment should be inflicted on an old man, who is neither a good father, a good husband, a good neighbour, or, in short, a good citizen ;---or, to give the question all the force it deserves, if it were to be said rather that he was a bad father, a bad husband, a bad neighbour, and a bad citizen ;---the answer is so obvious that it shall not escape my pen : to give the natural reply, would be to suppose that some one without the blessing of rea-

son would have the perusal of these papers.

I am disposed to carry the matter somewhat farther, and to imagine that if a citizen of the world were to be asked his opinion of that nation, where a man, who practised the most open and glaring debaucheries ; who encouraged his children to follow in the notorious paths he himself had trod ; who had betrayed, and for ever ruined, the friend that trusted in him, to gratify his lust ; who continued the external show of his excesses, when age deprived him of the powers of acting them ; and who neither feels nor even affects to feel either shame or remorse for his flagrant

grant enormities :—if a citizen of the world should be asked his opinion of the nation where such a man obtains a place among the representatives of the people, and receives honours from the favour of his Sovereign ;---I should rather say, where he is unrestrained by the bars of a dungeon, or escapes the hands of the executioner ;---what would be his observation upon the matter ?—I blush at the very idea of asking such a question ; and, while I write, my own heart forces an answer upon me, whose mortification shall live, at least, upon this page *.

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* It might be thought that this question would receive no small heightening from the marriage of this man's daughter with a

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brother

L— G— G— —.

IF a Prince could form Ministers to his wishes, he would not only give them abilities equal to their stations,

brother of the Throne; but that circumstance was properly omitted, as a casual event in the annals of this renowned family, which could be imputed only to the folly of the Royal Relation.—The noble Lord is not treated with the least injustice in the above observations. What language is capable of giving an adequate description of a father, who, meeting his son in the street, addresses him in the following manner:—
 “ Is it true, Colonel, that you lie with
 “ Mrs. S——?”—and, on being readily answered in the affirmative, to reply without reserve, “ That’s unlucky, by G—, for
 “ I do the same.” In a civilized and christian country, one would think that such an example of depravity could not escape punishment. But where a breach of manners happens

tions, but endue them also with those qualities which would win the love of the people, as well as deserve the confidence of their master. But Kings, like other men, must be content to work with the materials which fortune, chance, or the common order of things offers to them; while many unpleasing circumstances attend their pre-eminent labours, which are not considered by those who do not feel them; and as their objects are

happens not to be a breach of law, no other penalty can reach the former but the contempt of good and honest men, which, to persons who are capable of such guilt, is no penalty. The justice that must punish such offences is of another world; and the God of justice knows the measure and time of his vengeance.

more

more enlarged, their disappointments are greater than those of other men.

Subjects of general joy are readily communicated to the people ; but there are numberless antecedent chagrins and secret apprehensions, which are carefully concealed from them, and spend their strength within the circle of the Throne. The nation enjoys all the pleasure which arises from the communication of public prosperity, without suffering the anxiety of expectation, which may have long fatigued those who were unacquainted with the hidden operations that were working to produce it. Nor do the people always foresee the approaching misfortune, or, at least, cannot experience the painful efforts

forts which are made to avert it. When the blow is struck, they must feel its effects, but without those previous sollicitudes which are, sometimes, the most grievous part of human calamity.

But discharging all ideas of foreign war, which have hitherto accompanied me, I feel the mortifying reflection, that even in the bosom of peace a Monarch is a stranger to repose. If the universal complaint of private life springs from the indolence, the infidelity, and disunion of servants, it may easily be believed that much of the disturbance which agitates his hours, must arise from men whose duty calls them to the active labours of the State. In this
grand

grand object of his attention, to find merit is not always to succeed ; many varying circumstances are to be considered in the choice of a Minister : a capacity to perform his duty is a principal part of such a character, but it is not all ; his turn of mind, as well as his connections, demand attention. He may be able, but he may also be indolent : he may possess great talents, but they may be accompanied with qualities which will render them useless, or make them dangerous : he may be every-thing in himself that his Master can wish, but he may, by some means or other, be obnoxious to those who must be the coadjutors of his office ; and it will be readily acknowledged, that, in every

every business of life, but more particularly in the government of an extensive empire, inferior talents, when acting in concert and united by accordant dispositions, will produce more good than the greatest abilities, when openly opposed or secretly undermined by those employed in the same service.

The Spectator, at a public Theatre, sees nothing but the conduct of the piece which is represented before him. He cannot, nor is it fit he should, be sensible of the disorder which may prevail behind the scenes. It would interrupt his pleasure to hear the actors, who have been vowing eternal regard and heroic friendship in all the pomp
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of language on the stage, fill up the interval of their parts with bitter threats and vulgar reproaches. The heart-burnings of the Green-room do not perplex the show, and the Manager alone is harrassed with the discord. This is no faint picture of State concerns. Every minister may be seen in his office, busy in forwarding its concerns, and, to the world at large, the machine of Government may appear to go smoothly on ; while the door of the closet may be continually opening for their complaints, and the power as well as the condescension of Majesty fully employed to produce an harmony of Councils.

One man wants a place for his son,
a fe-

a second asks it for his brother, a third for a friend, a fourth for himself, and so on *. This man has interests which will be obstructed by the plan proposed for the benefit of another ; while the latter, who, sensible that his service is much wanted, refuses the offered appointment, if the former is not immediately discharged from the favour of his Mas-

* The late King, harrassed by the disputes of his Ministers in Council about the appointment of a Judge, told them, that, since they found it so difficult to settle the business, he would save them any farther trouble, by proposing a very worthy lawyer, who seemed to have no friend among them but himself ; and accordingly named Sir Richard Adams, Recorder of London. —His present Majesty, also, on a similar disagreement about filling up a vacant regiment, promoted Colonel *Hotbam*, now Sir Charles Thompson, to the command of it.
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ter*,—Such are the circumstances, among many others, which are continually harrassing the Throne ; and though they sometimes find their way to public notice, and furnish anecdotes for the Coffee-house Politicians, the trouble and mortification which originated with them remain behind, nor interrupt the curiosity that devours them.

Not being always able to find such men as he could wish, a King must be content to employ the best he can find ; but, above all things,

* The late Duke of Bedford insisted, as a preliminary article to his and his party's entrance into the service of Government, that Mr. Stuart Mackenzie should be dismissed from his employment.— This disgraceful story is well known.

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he is bound to make choice of those who may be harmoniously disposed to each other, and willing to join their united strength in the service of his Government. Among these, there may be some to whom popular favour is not gracious ; there may be others whom rigid virtue does not approve ; nay, there may be sometimes a character amongst them, who is not considered with respect by the power that appoints them. But if, in their different departments, they do their particular duties, and coincide, as occasion may require, in forwarding each other's business, so as to make the whole proceed prosperously and in order, it would be the height of folly to make particular objections,

and to express a discontent at subordinate or extraneous deficiencies. When the general end is answered, and national advantages is obtained, individual satisfaction and local outcry must necessarily be disregarded.

The noble Lord, from the circumstances of whose life these observations have originated, has not attained the high post he now occupies unattended with some degree of popular discontent. Without meaning to throw the least reflection upon those who were concerned in discarding him from his former profession, I cannot but think, at this hour, as indeed I ever have done, that his lot was marked with peculiar misfortune ; and I am disposed to hope
that

that the natural prejudice against him, originally proceeding from noble and patriotic motives, has been gradually losing ground, and has at length almost entirely yielded to the calm convictions of reason, the unwilling appeal of justice, or the natural tendency of a generous people to forgiveness. It will, however, be readily confessed, that there never was a moment, even in the height of this noble Lord's disgrace, when the superiority of his abilities was not acknowledged ; nay, when the measure of it was compleated by the sentence of the Court-Martial against him, many sensible and reflecting men looked forward to the period when those talents, which were for ever discharged from military duties, would

find employment and restore his reputation in civil Councils.

These prophecies, which marked his Lordship's destination, have been since fulfilled: and while humanity may weep over the wounded reputation of the Soldier, a just and generous nation will recompence the Minister with that applause that he so well deserves *.

* The Nobleman whose character, as well as the circumstances of whose life, occasioned the foregoing observations, from the extent of his abilities, the eminence of his former and present stations, with the singularity of his fortunes, becomes a subject of very extensive consideration; and I shall enter without apology or reserve upon a candid examination of it.

Lord G— G— — entered into life with so many and various advantages, that the eminence he attained may be considered as
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a situation to which they naturally conducted him. He was the younger son of the D— of D— —, a Nobleman of a most respectable character, and who was the early favourite and distinguished companion of *George the Second*. With these advantages, he possessed great natural abilities, improved by education, and highly polished by every elegant accomplishment that belongs to his rank. He entered upon the military line, and his advancement was not, as may be supposed, attended with delay. In the battle of *Fontenoy*, he was actually engaged, and behaved with a spirit which justified the choice of his profession. Without mentioning the particular circumstances of his rise in the army, it may be sufficient to observe, that it was not supposed to transcend his deserts. It was, however, soon discovered, that he possessed abilities equal to any employment whereto they might be directed; when, on the appointment of his father to the Lieutenancy of Ireland, his Lordship was named to be the Secretary of State for that kingdom; the duties of which office he administered with great ability and acknowledged reputation.

His character, as a man of superior talents,

lents, was now universally established; and they who, in their expectations, anticipated the events of future times, beheld him invested with the first honours of his profession and his country. On the failure of the secret expedition against *Rochfort*, in 1757, he was appointed, with the Duke of *Marlborough* and General *Waldegrave*, to enquire into the ill-success of that great national project. But though he had a person of the highest rank, and an officer of known courage, joined with him in this trust, it was considered by the nation in general, as a matter which almost entirely depended upon him: both Government and People rested on the sagacity of Lord G—, to unfold the hidden causes why this stupendous armament did not answer its original destination.

Without attending his Lordship through all his different promotions, I shall consider him at once as Commander in Chief of the British Forces in Germany, to which important post he succeeded in 1759, on the death of the Duke of *Marlborough*. Here, then, this Nobleman must be considered as having arrived at his highest pinnacle of power and importance; an height from which Fortune, who seemed tired of protecting him, resolved to cast him down: and, to aggra-

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vate his misfortune, she effected her fatal purpose at a time when he had the least suspicion of such an event, and therefore could not be in the least prepared to guard against it.

The battle of *Minden*, which produced so much glory to his country, covered him with disgrace, and made him look back upon the trophies of it with heaviness of heart. He certainly suffered most severely for the misconduct of that day. The violence of popular fury exerted all its powers against him; and, with tumultuous joy, applauded the sentence which disgraced him. But when this rage began to subside, when the minds of men, inflamed by popular opinion, had cooled a little upon the matter, he was generally considered as a man who had been treated with uncommon severity, not to say injustice;---that he had acted as well as his situation would admit, and, if he had been guilty of an error, it must have proceeded from the failure of his judgment, and not, as it had been industriously propagated, from fear of danger. Many did not scruple to assert, upon a more exact attention, that this Officer was sacrificed to the private disgust of Prince *Ferdinand*; and that this an-

tipathy arose from motives, which, while they were most disgraceful to the Prince, conferred singular honour on the integrity and diligence of the unfortunate General.

It is well known that Prince *Ferdinand* and Lord *George* had differed in opinion concerning some military operations; and that the latter being of opinion against some motions of the army proposed by the former, he opposed those designs with so much firmness as to prevent their execution. Besides, the English General, by diligently exercising his sagacity in a minute attention to his duty, had rendered himself very disagreeable to the Commander in Chief, as it appeared to thwart some designs of an avaritious nature which his Highness was supposed, at that time, to meditate,—and which, by the inattention of a succeeding officer, it is believed that he actually accomplished. If these circumstances are true, and there are very probable grounds for the suggestion, it is natural to conclude that the Prince would not pass by any favourable opportunity of procuring Lord *George*'s removal from a station, wherein, by a patriotic vigilance, he prevented the interests of his country from being made subservient to the gainful prospects

pects of an individual, however eminent for abilities, or however dignified by station.

Without entering into a particular detail of all the transactions which produced the disgrace of our accomplished Officer, I shall only beg leave to repeat the observation, that, previous to the battle of Minden, Prince Ferdinand and the British General did not accord together with that harmony which the cause wherein they were both engaged might seem to demand; and, on the eve of it, when his Serene Highness had determined to attack the French army, and had actually formed a plan for that purpose, he did not communicate his designs to Lord *George*, who was most certainly entitled to such a mark of confidence; abstracted from the utility which must naturally flow to the service from such a communication. But the base passions of the Man mingled with the great designs of the Hero, and his approaching glory would be incomplete, if private resentment failed of its gratification. On the day of battle, from what appeared to be a perplexity in the orders of Prince Ferdinand, the British General delayed to advance with the Horse, as he was commanded, so that the cavalry was declared to
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have been prevented, by such neglect, from having that decisive share in the business of the day, which would have rendered the victory far more perfect.—In the thanks which his Highness published to the Army on this occasion, Lord George G——'s name was not only omitted, but an heavy censure of his conduct was implied in the particular compliments which the Prince thought proper to address to the *Marquis of Granby*.

When the news of this important victory reached London, it was accompanied with reports very unfavourable to the British Commander. He was represented as a most atrocious coward, whose fear had rendered the success of the Allied Army incomplete, frustrated the bravery of the British cavalry, and brought an eternal disgrace upon his country and himself. The press now teemed with accusations against this unfortunate Nobleman ; and the many who attacked, as well as the very few who attempted to defend him, resting their assertions upon vague and indeterminate authorities, were equally unsuccessful in throwing any light upon the subject ; while the former, being more congenial to the spirit of the people, were universally

versally believed, and the latter as generally reprobated and despised. The facts which had occasioned the displeasure of the Prince varied every hour, and every change brought accumulated guilt along with it; and though they were not sufficiently ascertained for serious men to reason upon them, the people, having once possessed the idea that Lord George had played the coward, were hurried away into an excess of outrage against him.

The courage, however, which he was accused of wanting on the Plains of Minden, seemed to be fully restored to him, when, after resigning his command in Germany, he dared to return to England, and encounter the intemperate fury of his exasperated countrymen. On his arrival, his conduct bore the strongest marks of conscious innocence: he immediately addressed the public, humbly, requesting a suspension of their opinion concerning him, till a Court-Martial, which he had desired, should determine his innocence or his guilt. After stripping him of all his military employments, the King was pleased to grant his Lordship a Court-Martial; and the public waited the event of it with impatience, that his guilt might be confirmed, or
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his innocence made manifest.—The trial lasted many days, during the course whereof, the noble prisoner displayed all the powers of his comprehensive mind. His defence was admirable, and compelled even the unwilling applause of his enemies; but notwithstanding its judicious arrangement, skilful arguments, and persuasive eloquence, it availed him nothing in the main point to which it was directed; and he was found guilty of disobeying the orders of his Commander, Prince Ferdinand, and adjudged incapable of serving his King and Country in any military capacity. To encrease the severity of this sentence, the King signified his pleasure that it should be given out in public orders, in every part of his dominions where troops were stationed, assigning, at the same time, the most mortifying reason that could be suggested for such a publication, “ That officers being convinced, that
 “ neither high birth nor great employments
 “ can shelter offences of such a nature,
 “ and seeing they are subject to censures
 “ much worse than death to a man who has
 “ any sense of honour, they may avoid the
 “ fatal consequences arising from Disobedience of Orders.” But the measure of
 Lord

Lord George G——'s disgrace does not seem to have been full, till the King, with his own hand, struck his name from the List of Privy Counsellors.

The General Officers who sat as the Judges of this unfortunate Commander, in finding him guilty, did what they thought to be their duty, and a rigid idea of discipline might lead them to pass a sentence of such severity on the delinquent: nay, it was whispered at the time, and universally believed, that the majority of the Court-Martial were of opinion that the offence should be punished with death; but the number did not prove sufficient for the fatal verdict, as the mercy of our laws has ordained, that, in military trials, two thirds of the Judges must agree in order to produce a capital conviction.

That the King should be highly offended, was a matter of natural expectation; nor am I disposed to express any surprize at the method which he took to manifest his indignation. He was himself a man of dauntless courage, and hated a coward. He was proud of the military character, and therefore despised from his heart any one who disgraced it. But there was another and more
affecting

affecting circumstance, which occasioned this uncommon displeasure in the Royal Breast : —the neglect of duty was in Germany ; and in a battle, whereon, in a great measure, depended the safety of his darling Electorate : so that, if the peculiarity of disposition be considered, with the particular circumstances that now awakened it, his conduct will appear to be perfectly natural and consistent. However, to the cool, philosophic, investigator of this Nobleman's case, he must surely appear to be overcharged in the severity of his sentence ; and that, whether it was a perplexity in himself or his orders, --whether it was from a deficiency of judgment or of knowledge that he was so unfortunate as to offend, the punishment will appear greatly to outweigh the offence. The imputation of Fear was at once both false and frivolous ; and the testimony of that evidence who declared he saw marks of terror in his Lordship's countenance, when he delivered the orders of Prince *Ferdinand* to him, was so ill supported, and so well confronted, that the charge fell at once to the ground, and was considered, by many, as replete with malignity and falsehood.

It was not probable, that a man, who had
given

given proofs of courage, should be deserted by his spirits and sink into a poltroon, at a time when so much honour was at stake; and that he possesses more courage than was necessary for his credit at Minden, is evident from the composed and manly spirit which he since discovered in his duel with Governor *Johnstone*; a spirit which he could not have assumed, if he was afflicted with that fearful disposition which has been so positively attributed to him. Prince Ferdinand, without doubt, wished to render the service disagreeable to the English General; and, though the difference of the orders might be accidental, and by no means framed with a view to betray him, it appears very probable that his Highness readily seized the opportunity, which *Lord George's* doubts and hesitation afforded, to effect his removal.

At this distance of time, when all prejudice may be supposed to yield to a calm and unbiassed survey of events so long past and over, it appears that popular fury was much concerned in the disgrace of this unfortunate Officer. His was an unfashionable cause. Not only the nation in general, but the Court was violent against him; so that the principal evidence was hastily promoted,
while

while the Officer, whose testimony was most essential to the Prisoner, was obliged to sell his commission, and depend for support on the bounty of his noble friend with whom he was sacrificed.

Here then we may make a pause, and ruminate on the caprices of Fortune, and the uncertain state of wordly grandeur. This Nobleman, in a few months, was deprived of all his honours ; tried by men, the greater part of whom he had commanded, and adjudged by them to be unworthy of his profession, and to have disgraced the character of a soldier. He was publicly stigmatised as a coward in every part of the globe ; banished from the presence of his Sovereign ; and held in universal detestation by his countrymen and fellow-citizens.

I write with the freedom of History ; and the impartial spirit which dictates these sentiments, will not suffer us to pass over a circumstance, though it points out an unfavourable line in his Lordship's character. He appeared at this time to possess but few personal friends. Under the oppression of a sentence which was, most certainly, a very severe one ; the number of those who dared to hazard opinions in his favour, was very small indeed.

deed. The Court-Martial seemed to im-
bibe the spirit of all ranks of men when it
condemned him; and his sentence was
passed, as it were, with the general assent of
the Nation. Even the pity of the English
people, which discovers itself towards the
most hardened and atrocious malefactors, did
not appear to dart one ray towards this unpo-
pular Nobleman.

Among the many political reasons which
might be given for this strong tide of dis-
pleasure, it may be observed, that the Army
thought itself disgraced by its late Com-
mander; and the Navy raised its head on
the occasion, and almost forgot the fate of
an unfortunate Admiral. But there was
another circumstance which deprived him
of those consolations to the unfortunate,
which friendship so kindly bestows. The
haughtiness of his temper was intolerable,
and had displayed itself in every situation
of his life. They who had favours to ask,
were treated with an inattention which ag-
gravated disappointment; and they who re-
ceived them, lost half their satisfaction by
the manner in which he conferred them;
while persons of all ranks, who had con-

cerns of business with him, were witnesses to that haughty demeanour which tends to make men more unpopular than even crimes themselves. He was almost universally censured as destitute of courage; and no one stood forth to vouch for those private virtues, those winning graces, which are ever found to accompany a brave mind; while his haughty disposition found an obvious parent in the cowardice whereof he stood so strongly suspected.—Except his own particular connections, and those whom he involved in his disgrace, very few, indeed, have ever been mentioned as bearing him any affection. One officer, since promoted to a considerable rank in the Army, who had been greatly favoured by the disgraced Commander, remained firmly attached to his friend, and forsook him not in the most frowning hour of misfortune: and his fidelity has not missed of its reward; for the last appointment of the noble Lord was accompanied with the Order of the Bath to his faithful Friend.

But it is time to quit this necessary digression, and return to the situation in which we left his Lordship, covered with disgrace, and
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the object of popular detestation.—Thus thrown at a distance from all possibility of employment, he had few hopes to solace him, but such as might arise from the prospect of another reign, when the rage of popular prejudice, amid a variety of new objects, would look at him no more, or mankind, awakened to a candid review of his conduct, would wonder at their past severity, and pronounce him innocent. I shall not, therefore, consider his Lordship in this retired interval, but pass over the employments and natural impatience of it, to the accession of our present most gracious Sovereign.

It had, indeed, been long believed by the more acute and investigating politicians, that, amid the dishonour with which Lord George was surrounded, his situation was regarded with a secret, but tender concern, by the favourite of Leicester House; and that a ray of princely favour sometimes beamed from thence to illuminate the darkness of his disgrace. These suspicions, however chimerical some had esteemed them, were confirmed by his Lordship's return to Court soon after his present Majesty ascended the

Throne. The clouds of obscurity were now dissipated by the Royal Countenance. The public prints, indeed, were not passive upon the occasion, but their reprehensions were read and were forgotten; while the discerning part of mankind looked forward to what has really happened, and foretold that this Nobleman, though dead in his military capacity, would enjoy a state of renovation, arise in another form, and become a Civil Officer of the first importance.

His Lordship having, at length, found a firm footing in the avenue which leads to Power, his active spirit was not idle, but continually exerted itself in improving the advantage of his situation. He now began to avail himself of that eloquence and ability he was known to possess, and to figure in the House of Commons as an able Parliamentary Debater. In this department of politics, he tried his utmost strength, and wisely endeavoured to draw the attention of the public so forcibly to this new character, that the veil of oblivion might, if possible, be drawn over the other.

The first step he made to Civil employment, was an appointment to be one of the joint Vice
Treasurers.

Treasurers of Ireland: this he held but for a short time. However, it was sufficient to try the temper of the people with respect to him, and proved, from the manner in which it was received, that the majority of the Nation did not think such an appointment improper in itself, or inconsistent with the dignity of the Crown. Such was the idea now entertained of his parliamentary abilities, that the Ministry and the Opposition alike forgot the disgrace of the Soldier, and wished to draw to their party the powerful Orator and consummate Statesman.

At this period, the remarkable writings of *Junius* first made their appearance in the public papers; and the conjectures of many curious politicians rested, for a long time, upon Lord G— G— as the author of them. The spirit with which these Letters were written, the penetration they discovered, the matter they unfolded, the objects to which their severity was directed, and the powerful language in which the whole was clothed, found a very suspected origin in the extensive abilities of this Nobleman. But however ill founded these suspicions appear to have been, as they marked the public

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lie opinion of his talents and understanding, they encreased his importance, and he became thereby an higher object of ministerial fear and conciliation.

Lord George once more felt himself to be a character of consequence, and, by his subsequent conduct, he appears to have acted with great caution in winning his way to the important station which he now possesses. Veering by degrees from Opposition, he became, at length, the firm supporter of Ministerial measures. The troubles of America had, for some time, been such an heavy and oppressive burthen to the shoulders of Government, that it seemed frequently to tremble beneath them. It was an act, therefore, of the highest prudence, to call the abilities of this Nobleman to its aid, by appointing him to be Secretary of State for the American department. This measure appeared to meet with a pretty general approbation. The lively sarcasms of the Orator, on this promotion, proceeded only from the usual petulance of Opposition: the writer of paragraphs, and the epigrammatist, were less busy than might have been expected on the occasion; while moderate men rejoiced,

rejoiced, that a Nobleman distinguished for discernment, deep investigation, and unremitting diligence, to whom well-earned popularity must be peculiarly desirable, was elevated to a post of such immediate importance to the honour and prosperity of the British Empire.

END OF THE SIXTH VOLUME.



